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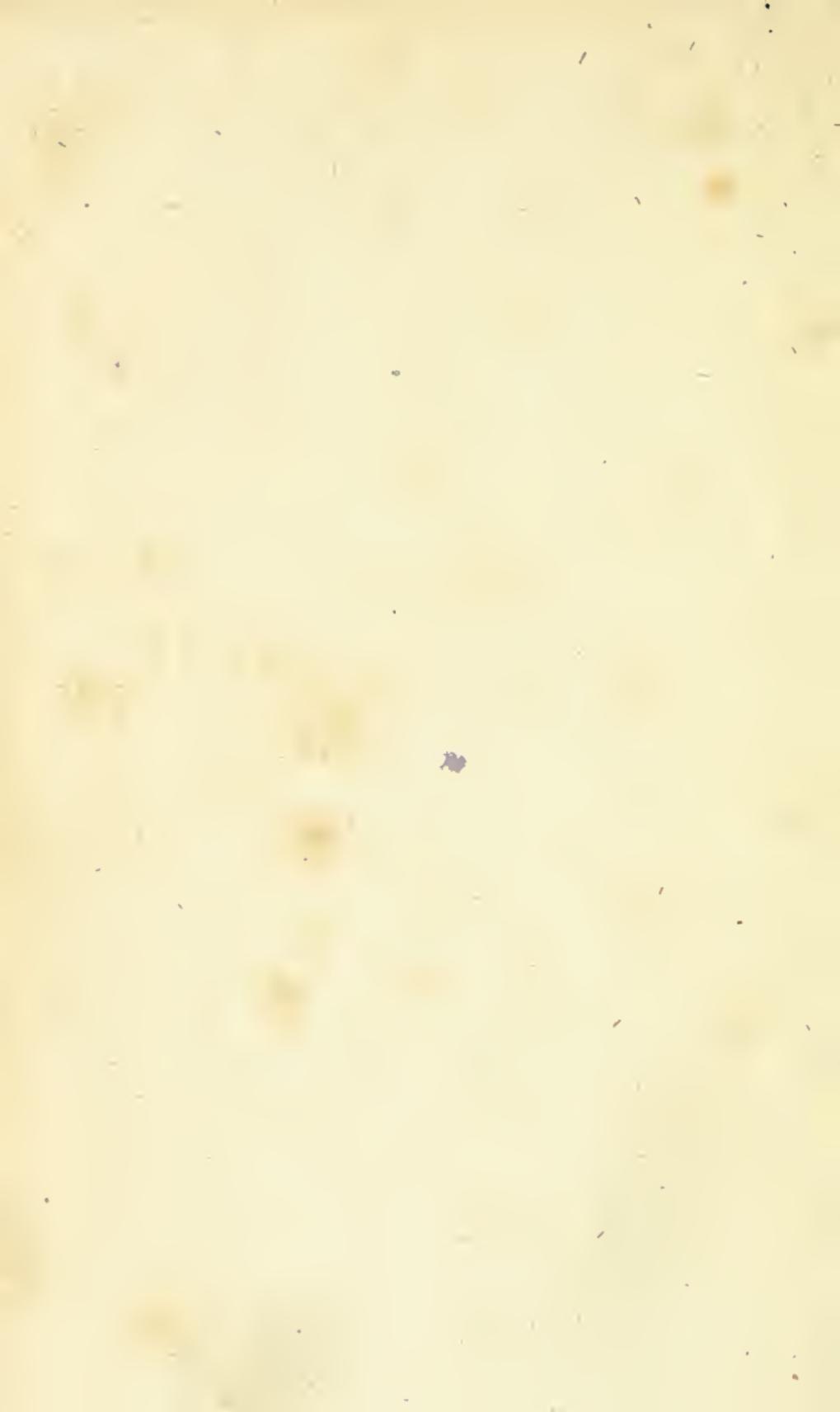
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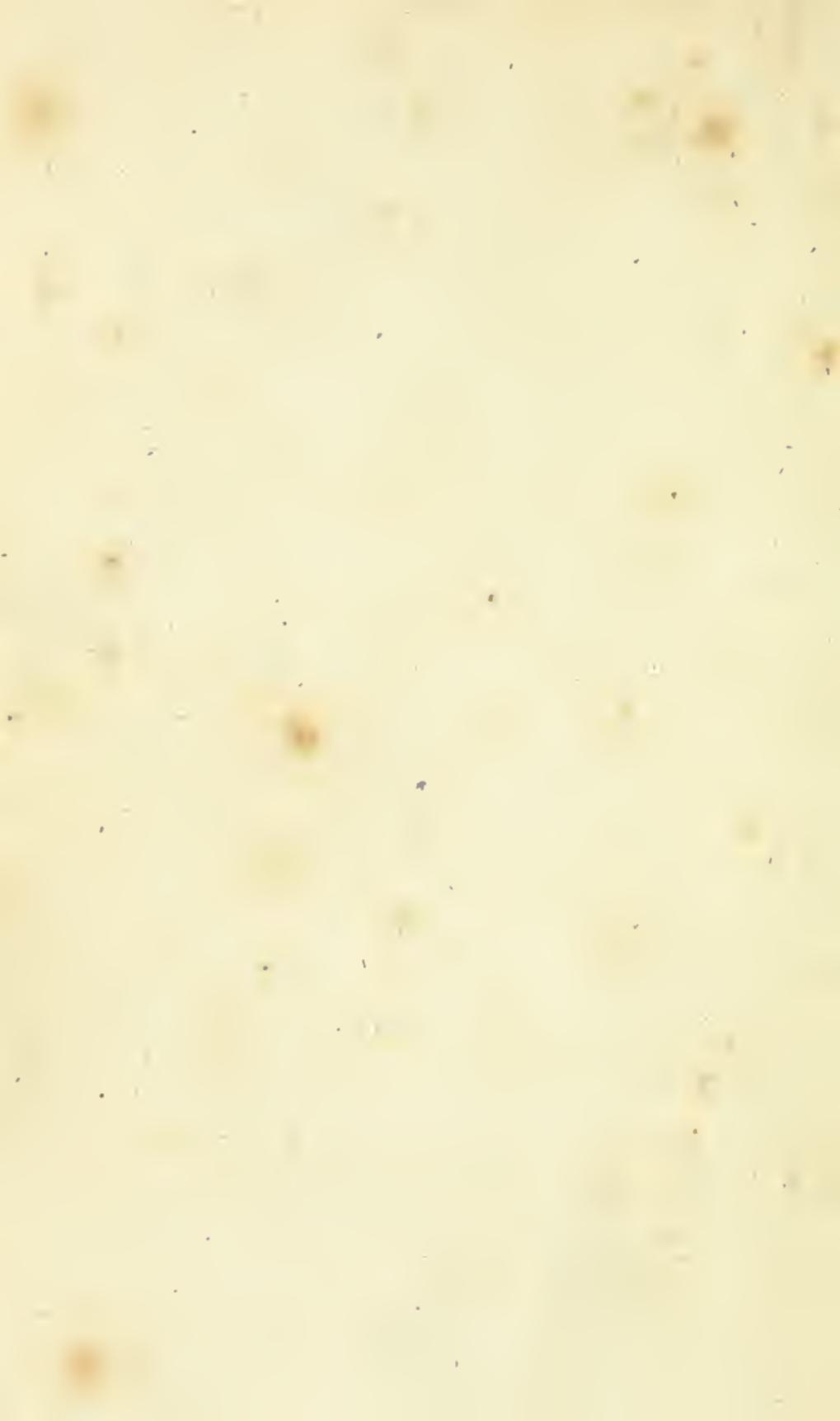
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THE
MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY
Mrs. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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T H E
MEMOIRS

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Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

IN order to give the reader an opinion of the authenticity of these memoirs, it may not be unnecessary to inform him, that I was acquainted with Mrs. Baddeley from her earlier days; that as children we were brought up together, and educated at the same school; that our in-

VOL. I. B timacy

timacy continued through the whole of her life, and that for several years of it, she lived in my house; that as her friend and confidante she unbosomed herself to me, and that of course there was no material occurrence of her life, but I was made acquainted with; and the subsequent pages and vouchers will declare the truth of this assertion.

I shall not trespass on my reader's patience by a detail of the occurrences of her younger days, I will take her up from the time she became a public character. Such persons as have moved in a conspicuous line of life naturally excite the curiosity of the world. The public has always had it's favourites; and since the

the Drama has been known on the English stage, merit in that line has been the best road to acquire it's favour. The refined sentiments of this country have not limited it's attachments to the public character alone, but the warmth of national gratitude has followed it's favourite from active to retired life, and also extended it's tributary beneficence to the tomb, and thus enabled it to survive it's mortal existence. An indulgent public will always make allowances for the frailties of human nature, and either consign them to oblivion in the contemplation of those striking characteristics which attract admiration, or place them in the shade of qualities that deserve commendation. From a conviction

that such are the sentiments and disposition of a considerate and dispassionate public, in whose memory Mrs. Baddeley still holds a favourable place, these Memoirs are laid before them, on the confidence of their meeting a candid and indulgent reception.

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley was the daughter of Mr. Valentine Snow, late serjeant-trumpeter to his Majesty, and born in the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, in the year 1745. Her father bestowed on her a very genteel education, and having an uncommon degree of softness and delicacy in her features and person, with every necessary external accomplishment of her sex, she attracted the

at-

attention and esteem of all who knew her, and the tenor of her conduct, being regulated by the strictest decorum, ensured her general respect.

She lived with her father till she reached the age of eighteen, who instructed her in music, and was very anxious that she should be thorough mistress of the harpsichord. Music however did not suit her taste so much as a contemplative turn to reading, and the lessons her father gave her were a task of labour. She made her complaints to a neighbouring shop-keeper, with whom Mr. Baddeley lodged, represented her father's anxiety for her improvement, as overbearing and tyranical, and found in this woman that offi-

cious interference, that under the name of friendship is too often the source of unseen calamities. She introduced her to her lodger, gave her to understand that she had it then in her power to free herself from a continuance of the same treatment, by accepting the protection of Mr. Robert Baddeley, who belonged to Drury-lane Theatre, and who would bring her upon the stage. Miss Snow had always a *penchant* for a theatrical life, and this proposal giving her an opportunity of gratifying her inclination, she listened to what Mr. Baddeley had to say, and in a very few days eloped from home, and fled to this neighbour's house, who received her and secreted her, till she became the wife of Mr. Baddeley.

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This was in the year 1764. He soon procured her an engagement at Drury-lane. Cordelia, in *Lear*, was the first character she appeared in; and young and untutored as she was, she gave most ample proofs of rising merit, testified by the loudest plaudits of the audience.

During the representation of this piece a singular circumstance happened, (owing to her inexperience, having never seen the play, and being requested to read the part in the absence of an actress that was taken ill) that disturbed the performance much. When Edgar came in, as Mad Tom, his figure and manner gave her such an unexpected shock, that through real terror she screamed and fell

fell down motionless, and it was some time before she recovered. The audience, to an individual, sympathised with her, and she resumed her character, encouraged by the thunder of reiterated applause from every quarter of the house.

Before she had been twelve months on the stage her merit entitled her to estimation as a player, and her accomplishments had gained her general admiration; her vocal powers were in *her* day, on a level with the first public singer. She gave proofs of her abilities at Vaux-hall, and was engaged soon after at Ranelagh, at twelve guineas a-week. At the Theatre she acquitted herself best in genteel comedy, and further

ther than this, she never attempted; except the part of Mrs. Beverley, in the *Gamester*, which she performed once or twice, during the illness of Mrs. Barry, and was exceedingly well received by the public.

With all the advantages which youth, accomplishments, and the united talents of her and her husband could give her, Mrs. Baddeley was not without her misfortunes. For the space of three years she lived with her husband without any public impeachment on her character; but meeting at Ranelagh with Mr. Mendez, a Jew, he threw himself in her way, became acquainted with her and her husband, alienated her mind from her

her conjugal duty, and she, unfortunately listening where she should have turned a deaf ear, agreed to go with him alone on a party of pleasure to Stains-bridge, where she committed an act that deterred her from going back to her own house, but, on her return she flew to Mr. Charles Holland of Drury-lane Theatre; and he thought proper to receive her. She lived with Mr. Holland till the small-pox took him from her.

Dr. Hayes of Marlborough-street, the physician, who attended Mr. Holland in his last illness, knowing the deserted situation in which Mrs Baddeley was left, by the death of this person, whom she very affectionately loved, began to think

his

his good offices might not be unacceptable to her; made her a tender of them in a very respectful manner, and was assiduous to pay her every attention in his power. Mrs. Baddeley, urged by her deserted situation and the importunity of her suitor, listened to his proposals; he took lodgings for her, and with him she continued eight or nine months; till Mr. David Garrick, manager of the Theatre, insisted on her leaving him; to this she assented, on condition that he would pay her her salary weekly into her own hands. Mr. Baddeley was averse to this, at least till his debts were paid; and as Mr. George Garrick interfered warmly in behalf of Mrs. Baddeley, it had nearly occasioned a meeting

meeting in Hyde-park. The negotiation however being resumed again, Mr. Baddeley agreed that articles of separation should take place between him and his wife, provided Mrs. Baddeley would bind herself and find securities to execute a bond for the payment of his, Mr. Baddeley's debts, then amounting to eight hundred pounds: this Mrs. Baddeley complied with, and all his debts were discharged through my hands, agreeable to the compact. The conditions of the bond were, that all debts due before the separation should be paid by Mrs. Baddeley, and that her husband should be indemnified from any debts contracted by her hereafter. The separation took place about the year 1767.

Mr.

Mr. Baddeley was indeed sued afterwards for two debts contracted by his wife, the costs of which were paid by me to his attorney, Mr. Levy, of Fetter-lane; having got rid of these debts by proving the articles of separation, and that his wife was in the receipt of her own salary.

Notwithstanding their separation, Mr. and Mrs. Baddeley continued to perform at the same theatre, but exchanged not a word with each other, save in their respective characters on the stage. In the performance of the *Clandestine Marriage*, when their Majesties were present, Mrs. Baddeley played Fanny; Mr. Baddeley, Canton; and, Mr. King,

Lord Ogleby. Before Fanny joined them on the stage; the accommodating Swiss had exerted and exhausted all his adulation in order to recommend her to his Lordship's notice.

Lord Ogleby. Ah! La petite Fanchon! — She's the thing; — Is not she Cant?

Canton. Dere is very good sympatie entre vous & dat young lady, my Lor.

Lord Ogleby. If she goes, I'll positively go too.

Canton. In the same post-chay, my Lor? — You have no objection? — ha, ha, ha.

The effect which the officious assiduity of the player in the repetition of these words, and the following scene where

Fanny

Fanny joins them, and where her application to Lord Ogleby, in behalf of one she loves, is misconstrued by them as an amorous address to his Lordship; this effect of character on the feelings of the audience caused a universal laugh, in which their Majesties heartily joined; and it was some time before Tom King, (Lord Ogleby) was permitted to express his approbation of the fair object so recommended to his tenderness.

Mrs. Baddeley's looks upon this occasion were such as to have a very laughable effect, and she was next day honoured with a message from their Majesties, by Mr. Ramus, desiring her to go to Zophany's and be taken for her picture

in that attitude and situation; with which she complied, and from which a print was afterwards engraved.

This distinguishing mark of royal approbation extended her theatrical fame through every circle of fashionable and middling life, and she became caressed, adored and followed by the first persons in the nation. Nothing that rank, fortune or influence could effect, was left untried to gain her favour and attention; and it required more than female resolution to withstand the variety of temptations, that were thrown in her way.

Though before this event, and indeed before her separation from her husband, she

she had been noticed by his Royal Highness the late Duke of York, whose taste and vivacity led him to mix with the pleasures of the gay world and interest himself in the general affairs of life. He could not but admire such a performer as Mrs. Baddeley, where so much sensibility and beauty united, and he frequently honoured her with his visits, often alone, and often in company with Sir John Wriothesley. The anxiety evinced by his Highness on all occasions where Mrs. Baddeley was concerned, was a proof of his regard; which was confirmed by his presenting her with a lock of his own hair previous to his leaving this kingdom. She kept this token of the Prince's esteem to her dying day,

and has bequeathed it to one who carefully preserves it.

On taking leave of Mrs. Baddeley, his Highness regretted the necessity he lay under of being obliged contrary to his inclinations to leave England, nor was he very restrained in his reflections on the cause which occasioned it.

About twelve months after the Prince's departure, and near two years prior to her separation, Sir Cecil Bishop, (father to the present Lady Warren,) took some pains to engross Mrs. Baddeley's esteem; but finding age an obstacle, he tried the effect of presents. He purchased a service of plate, to the amount

amount of about one hundred pounds in value, and sent it to her, with the following note.

“ Dear Mrs. Baddeley,

“ I have sent you a small service of plate, which I beg your acceptance of; and intend to do myself the honour to take tea with you this evening, if you are disengaged.

“ Your’s to command,

“ In every respect,

“ Cecil Bishop”.

“ Friday Morning,

“ Berkeley-Square,

The Baronet's present was accepted and also his visit, (this also was before her separation,) and after some time finding the interruptions of the town too frequently disappoint the purposes he had in view, he proposed to her an excursion to his country seat, at Storrington, in Sussex. After much importunity on the part of the old gentleman, (then near fourscore years of age) Mrs. Baddeley consented to it; but he had little cause to rejoice in this change of situation, as her invincible obduracy to his solicitations continued till the evening, when she left him and set off for Brighthelmstone.

When it is considered that the gay world

world did not produce a character but what was an admirer of Mrs. Baddeley; it is not to be supposed that age and infirmity could rivet her attention and supplant every other impression; or that a retreat with such a person could afford sufficient inducement to fix a mind courted by all the gaieties and pleasures of the age.

This plate, when she parted from her husband, she took away with her and lodged in the hands of Mr. Teasdale, Haberdasher, in Tavistock-street; but it was afterwards returned. Mr. Teasdale was one who viewed her with the eyes of the best of her admirers, and could not resist gratifying his inclinations

tions at the expence of his interest. He was in partnership with a Mr. Squib, and Mrs. Baddeley being on their books to the amount of near two hundred pounds, for the payment of which, Squib becoming very importunate, Mr. Teasdale absolutely gave her the money to discharge this debt.

Mrs. Baddeley traversed the gay scenes of life, with a heart disengaged from the trammels of love, notwithstanding all that artifice and ingenuity could devise, was employed to undermine her repose. Among all those who laboured to gain her affections the honourable William Hanger, second son of the late Lord Coleraine was most assiduous and indefatigable,

tigable, and at last succeeded; but as fate would have it, he soon lost the footing he had gained; for taking his brother one day to see her, he ungenerously supplanted him in her affections. This gentleman, the honourable John Hanger, on obtaining Mrs. Baddeley's heart, made her the most ample and unreserved promises of liberality, and pledged himself by the most solemn vows to give her all the support and protection his fortune or affection could afford or contrive. He took a handsome lodging in Dean-street, Soho, hired her a carriage at his own expence, and his assiduity and tenderness soon gained him her affection. In the enjoyment of his company she soon forgot that fortune was perverse
and

and might unexpectedly overthrow her happiness. For a length of time her warmest wishes met a reciprocal return, and she experienced the most exalted enjoyment that could have sprung from such an intercourse. The zeal of her enamored in promises of liberality out-stripped his abilities, for his circumscribed finances were no way adequate to realize the hopes he had taught Mrs. Baddeley to form. This inability however was far from abating her attachment to him; on the contrary, she eagerly grasped at the opportunity it gave her of proving the sincerity and disinterestedness of her affections, by expending the salary she received from Ranelagh and the Theatre, which amounted

mounted to twenty pounds a week, for their mutual expences in house-keeping.

She owed the large salary she received at Ranelagh to the partiality of Sir Thomas Robinson, who was an acting proprietor, and though a very old man, was solicitous for her favours. He took no small pains to convince her of his regard; but she was deaf to it all, and though he was frequent in his visits to her, made her a variety of small presents and offers suitable to his fortune, it would not do; she told him her heart was too far engaged to listen to his proposals, that she held herself under obligations to him in many respects, but that she could never think of receiving his visits in any other

light than that of a friend, and if he persisted in similar applications, she must absolutely decline seeing him any more.

In the mean time, the several tradesmen from whom Mrs. Baddeley had credit, and for the payment of whose demands Mr. Hanger had pledged himself, became importunate. The debts amounted to seven hundred pounds, among these was the coach-master's bill for the hired carriage he engaged. His finances were by no means in a state to answer these demands, though his domestic expences, from Mrs. Baddeley's contribution were but trifling. Seeing his embarrassments, she proposed a retrenchment of expences, willing to submit

mit to any alternative, rather than lose him or see him unhappy. This proof of her attachment was received with very cool civility. Mr. Hanger informed her that a knowledge of their connexion had reached his father's ears, and met with his displeasure; that fearful of offending him and incurring debts he should not be able of himself to pay, he should be obliged to submit to his father's mandates, and acquiesce in the painful necessity of relinquishing the possession of an object he could not part from but with regret and unhappiness.

This declaration, to a woman who had not a thought or sentiment in her soul but was engrossed by the object of

it, harrowed up her feelings and suspended the vital current of life for some moments. She fell senseless to the floor, and it was with heartfelt labour that she recovered. Obduracy itself could not avoid waiting the issue of this transitory suspension without dread and horror. The unhappy dejected victim revived to gaze on the arbiter of her misery or happiness. She gazed and sighed and gazed again. One would suppose that if gratitude was extinct in Mr. Hanger's heart, decency and good-nature must have extorted from him some expressions of tenderness and concern. Whatever they were, they were not the effusions of that sympathetic ardor which animates the breast of love, but a repetition only of what

what he before had said, concluding, that if his father did not precipitate him into a *forced* marriage, he would call to see her now and then, when he could escape observation.

He then proceeded to pack up such articles as belonged to him and lay in the apartments, consisting only of a small trunk of cloaths: whilst he was thus employed, Mrs. Baddeley conjured him by every tye of affection not to leave her, declaring she would submit to any vicissitude of fortune rather than be separated from him.

But all her intreaties were in vain; Mr. Hanger withdrew and left her for

condolence to her own reflections. The first step he took after his departure, was to call on the coach-master and inform him, that he should cease to be responsible to him for Mrs. Baddeley's carriage from that day, leaving her at the same time under the dreadful apprehension of being importuned for those debts contracted by them both. The hire of the coach was afterwards paid by me.

As soon as Mr. Hanger had left the house, Mrs. Baddeley called a hackney-chair, and ordered herself to be set down at an apothecary's in Dean-street, where she asked for three hundred drops of laudanum. The master of the shop scrupled selling such a quantity, till she informed

informed him who she was, adding at the same time, that she was accustomed to take a dose of it every night, and as she was going into the country, she wished to take as much as would last till her return. The apothecary entertaining no doubt of her veracity, consented to let her have it. On her return home, she discharged the chair, went up to her chamber and swallowed the whole quantity. She then made her servant acquainted with what she had done, assuring her that her Gaby's treatment of her (for so she affectionately called Mr. Hanger) made her life insupportable, and as a short time must now terminate her existence, she enjoined her to bear him the tidings of her fate.

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The maid, alarmed at what she heard, immediately called in the first medical assistance that could be had: Dr. Hayes, Sir John Eliot, and Dr. Turton attended. These gentlemen found her labouring under the effects of the opium, and after several hours efforts, succeeded so far as to procure an intermission of her stupor. Her health suffered extremely from this rash step and the distraction of her mind, and at the end of six weeks she was scarce able to walk. Her recovery was slow, indeed it was never perfectly obtained, as through the remainder of her life she was afflicted with a bilious complaint, that often disordered her and made many of her days unhappy.

Bodily indisposition was not the only difficulty Mrs. Baddeley had to encounter with. Poverty stared her in the face, her cloaths and other valuables, of which she was mistress, were before disposed of, to enable her to live with the man whom she loved beyond every other object. Whilst she flattered herself that a lasting and mutual affection bound their hearts, she never declined a resource to the pawn-broker, as long as she had any thing to pledge, and when he parted from her she owed thirty pounds to Mrs. Bell, of Dean-street, the person in whose house she lodged.

This was the period when I became connected with her, in the year 1769:

I had been bred at the same school, and when we were children, we were always together. Our acquaintance was in some measure dropped after her marriage; but I no sooner heard of her distress than I paid her a visit, and, on a promise on her part, to attend to her business and give up all thoughts of a person from whom she experienced such unmerited treatment, I extricated her from every difficulty: I paid the greater part of her debts at that time and the remainder afterwards. I took a house in St. James's Place, made it her home and procured her a carriage. Set so much at her ease, she soon recovered her spirits and was as cheerful as before.

The present Lord Sefton, (when Lord Molineux) had been a constant admirer of Mrs. Baddeley, though Mr. Hanger's attachment to her precluded him from the hopes of gaining any ascendancy in her mind; his Lordship therefore, during their connexion, discontinued his visits, but no sooner did he hear of Mr. Hanger's deserting her, than he availed himself of the opportunity and renewed his attentions. As my house in St. James's-place was not ready for Mrs. Baddeley's reception for a fortnight after I took it, his Lordship made her repeated offers of a settlement in the interim, if she would consent to accept of it. Her heart however being far from disengaged from the last

object.

object that possessed it, and of course indifferent to any other, and his Lordship being married to a very amiable woman, Mrs. Baddeley rejected every proposal, and made his marriage a bar to any hopes he might entertain of success in what he solicited.

Yet not discouraged by repeated denials he still persevered, and having learned the embarrassed situation of Mrs. Baddeley's affairs, from which she was relieved only by the humanity of a friend; his Lordship, as a preliminary, proposed to pay her debts and to settle on her four hundred pounds a year, and particularly told her that she might command instantly a thousand pounds to satisfy

tisfy her creditors. Embarrassed however as she was, she declined the proposal, which his Lordship still pressed, and he withdrew saying he would wait for an answer till the next day, and hoped she would take that time to consider of it.

Mrs. Baddéley was not at that time dunned with importunate creditors, but yet she felt the obligation she lay under to me who had relieved her from their intrusions and wished for an opportunity to repay me ; at the same time, she was convinced that the motive of my liberality, was a personal esteem for her, the loan being accompanied with an injunction to her, to profit by what she had experienced, to preserve her heart

to herself and look forward to that prospect of ease and indulgence which her profession and abilities would ensure her.

In this undecided state of mind, she advised with Mrs. Bell, the woman in whose house she still lodged in Dean-Street, acquainting her with every particular of her present situation, and saying that her gratitude to me actuated her two different ways. She wished to indemnify me for my pecuniary favours, but that the offers made her though they might enable her to accomplish that wish, were incompatible with the terms on which those favours were conferred ; besides, the person who made her

Her these offers, being married to a very amiable and accomplished woman to whom he was inconstant, it was a proof he was incapable of a lasting attachment; she therefore was of opinion, that let what misfortunes would happen, it would be idle to risk her future peace by a connexion, of which the continuance was uncertain.

The person she consulted was of a different way of thinking; the settlement was an object of too much consequence to be rejected; it would outlive the constancy of the donor and be a comfortable resource when age came on. Moreover, she remarked that Mrs. Baddeley ought to consider she was still not less in-

debt to me, though not importuned; and it was natural to think that the money would be called for one day or other, when she might not have it in her power to repay me; but that if she accepted his Lordship's proposals, she would at all times command a sufficiency to discharge the obligations she lay under; in short, the offer was a noble and a generous one and too valuable to be over nice in the acceptance of. She ended with saying that self-interest ought to be her guide, and should Lord Molineux even not make her the settlement proposed, he certainly would give her an equivalent.

On the contrary, Mrs. Baddeley's mind was totally averse to forming any future

future attachment; nay she went so far as to say, she would rather face death than comply with Lord Molineux's wishes. However, the good woman of the house having now obtained her confidence, took every opportunity of expatiating on her conduct, which she termed silly in the extreme, and the earnestness with which she perpetually pursued the subject, had at last some weight with Mrs. Baddeley, who began now to give it a consideration. She enjoined her landlady however, not to communicate her sentiments to me, whose displeasure she feared to incur.

His Lordship came of course the next day and pressed for an answer, which

he received in the negative. But this did not abate his fervor; on the contrary, he launched out into the most soft and tender expressions, determining to try the force of eloquence. Resolved to take no denial, he met her repeated refusals with calmness, and flattered himself he should succeed by perseverance. He proposed sending for his attorney to draw up the settlement. This was not suffered. He then gave her his note of hand payable to her, one month after date, for 350l. and presented it to her, and left her, with saying he would return in the evening and bring his attorney with him. This note I took to Mr. Drummond, at Charing Cross, and he was polite enough to cash it in Mrs. Baddeley's name,

who

who drew for it in small sums as she had occasion. His Lordship has taken some pains to contradict this, but Mr. Drummond's books will prove the truth of it.

He returned in the evening, but without his attorney, who would follow him, he said, in two hours. Finding Mrs. Baddeley very much dejected, he tenderly enquired the cause of it, and she candidly confessed that his Lordship's expressions brought to her remembrance the many endearing terms she had once heard from the lips of her dear Gaby, (now Lord Coleraine) whose impression she found it the greatest difficulty to erase from her heart. Whenever this subject occurred, she underwent, she said, a species of

of distraction, and often indulged a profound melancholy in contemplating his picture which hung over the sofa, where they often sat, and passed hours in the full enjoyment of a reciprocity of affection. Her mind was now oppressed with the pungent recollection of that lost happiness she was once no stranger to; and the weight of it being too great for her to support in silence within herself, it ended itself in a flood of tears. His Lordship, on his knees, implored her to banish from her mind, objects which had so inimical an influence on her peace, and endeavour to attend to those which held out a more pleasing alternative, and which his love and affection should be strenuously employed to procure her.

She

She assured him the more he spoke in that style, the more she was affected, it exciting emotions and renewing those feelings for her Gaby, who was once so much her delight, that his even abandoning her to distress, could not eradicate from her breast. His Lordship might see from this, she said, that was she even prevailed upon to give him her person, she could not accompany it with her heart.

Whilst his Lordship was thus pleading for his passion, I came in to Mrs. Baddeley on a visit: this was in autumn 1769. Being informed she was at home, I went up stairs, but could gain no admission into the dining room, as the door was

was fastened. Apprehensive that she might have recourse a second time to laudanum, as no answer was made to my call, and as the servant did not say any person was with her, I insisted on a man being sent for, to force the door. This menace alarmed his Lordship within, he opened the door suddenly and rushed forth with such impetuosity, rushing by me as I waited for admittance, that we nearly escaped a fall down the stairs.

Seeing Mrs. Baddeley in tears, I enquired the cause, and also who the person was that acted with so much rudeness, telling her at the same time that her conduct did not appear consistent with her promises. After apologizing for
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the door being locked, which Mrs. Baddeley said she would explain, she recounted to me the particulars, as before related. Having heard her out, I remonstrated on the impropriety of her behaviour, and highly censured her for listening to any terms from Lord Molineux. She attended to me with patience, and acknowledged the justice of my suggestions, so as to determine her in a rejection of his Lordship's proposals for the present. Before I left her, Lord Molineux returned, attended by the dissector of his patrimony, his attorney, with the deeds of settlement. When the door was opened to him, Mrs. Baddeley was just entering from the garden; the woman of the house shewed his Lordship into

into the parlour, where I and Mrs. Baddeley followed him. She there told him that as she had not the command of her affections, she was determined not to dispose of her person, and therefore hoped he would excuse her peremptorily declining the proposed settlement; alledging that her own peace, and the influence of her friend (alluding to me) whom he saw present, were objects of dearer concern to her than any consideration his Lordship had it in his power to offer. She thanked him for the favour he had been pleased to bestow on her the day before, and hoped that her present determination would be attributed to its true motive, not disrespect to his Lordship, but merely as she had stated it. Lord

Moli-

Molineux in profound silence made her a low bow and on retiring assured her, that in his opinion, the small matter which she was pleased to call a favour, was but an earnest of what he wished to do for her in future.

After this peremptory refusal on the part of Mrs. Baddeley, his Lordship seeing that future endeavours would be fruitless, desisted from making any further attempts. As his conduct therefore afterwards had no relation to Mrs. Baddeley, the reader will agree with me, that it should be relinquished for the present, to make room for one who filled a more interesting place among the train of her followers.

My house in St. James's Place being now ready for our reception, Mrs. Baddeley removed there, after giving an answer to several suitors who made her similar proposals to those made by Lord Molineux. Her rising merit at the Theatre, entitling her to an advance of salary, the manager of Drury Lane added 6l. a week to her former eight, which, with the 12l. she received at Ranelagh, would have enabled her to keep an elegant carriage, with a proper set of servants, and make an appearance suitable to the same. She now solemnly promised to regulate her conduct, according to the plan I laid down for her, and to sacrifice every temptation which love or gallantry might throw in her way, in order to prevent

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the effects of future disappointments or embarrassments.

As soon as she was settled with me, Lord Pigot, who afterwards lost his life in the East Indies, paid her a visit. His Lordship being an elderly man, assumed all the gravity of a monitor, and in a very friendly way proffered Mrs. Baddeley his advice, for the regulation of her future conduct, adding, that she might command all the service in his power, offered her as the result of pure esteem, and friendship. Under this idea, his visits were daily, and the familiarity that subsisted between him and us, gave him such weight with us, that no one was admitted but such as he and I approved.

He presented Mrs. Baddeley with many tokens of his esteem, which I considered as testimonies of his friendship, seemingly increasing in its fervour daily; and his assiduity in bestowing his advice to the fair object of it, was in my opinion a further test of it's warmth. I could not however, but observe at last, that he was not so well pleased when a third person was present, and when alone with Mrs. Baddeley he would betray an unusual embarrassment, by those internal emotions, that were visible in his countenance. At length he took an opportunity, one day when he was alone with her, to say, that he felt more for her than mere friendship and esteem; that his sentiments were actuated by an attachment
of

of a more tender nature, and which he sought her to relieve by a reciprocal sensation ; in fact, he declared his passion for her was not short of love.

Mrs. Baddeley, surprized at a declaration she so little expected, requested his Lordship might not deceive himself by indulging the least hope that he would ever gain that interest in her affections, which could be favourable, to his inclinations ; but at the same time expressed the high value she set upon the honour of his friendship, which nothing could induce her to forfeit, but his Lordship's perseverance in his present declarations.

At this very juncture Mrs. Baddeley's benefit being fixed on, Mr. Garrick sent her word of it. The messenger arrived, just as tea was serving up, when Lord Pigot was present. His Lordship immediately engaged the first box, and presented Mrs. Baddeley with a hundred pounds on the occasion. And when the piece to be performed, was generally known, numbers of persons who were denied admittance at our house before, came now to order tickets, and engaged boxes, places, &c. for Mrs. Baddeley's night.

Among these was a Mr. Franco, a Jew merchant of Fenchurch-street, who engaged places for eight in one box,
and

and very politely paid 50*l.* for the same. He then called for pen, ink and paper, and wrote a long affecting epistle to Mrs. Baddeley, filled with professions of love, and enclosing a twenty-pound bank-note, requesting the honour of her accepting it; and also intimating, that he would wait upon her at ten o'clock next morning. He came according to his appointment, and in attempting to rush into the parlour, where some company were at breakfast, without sending in his name, the footman took him by the shoulder, and as he was a little man, pushed him into the street with ease, and shut the door upon him.

One may remark here, how apt servants are to catch the manners of those with whom they live, and that the old proverb, “like master like man,” is often verified. If they are in the service of quiet, orderly people, they will behave with decorum; if under characters of a reverse disposition, they will be insolent and overbearing. This man knew the errand on which Mr. Franco came, and sensible his visit would not be acceptable to his mistress, was ready enough to treat him with disrespect.

Sir Thomas Mills, and Mr. Mayne the banker, who came for tickets also, were of the party at breakfast with us; and on the discomfiture of the little gentle-

gentleman, who was disappointed in his speculations, the whole company, who saw him reeled into the street, burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, which took some time before they were able to suppress it. The purchase of tickets was not the only occasion of the visit of these gentlemen, but an invitation to Sir Thomas Mills's to dinner, where some of the first people of distinction were that day to dine. The invitation was accepted; we were entertained with a concert, after which cards were introduced; which I mention, for the opportunity of saying, that as we played for ten guineas a game, Mrs. Baddeley won 300*l.* and I won 80*l.* This invitation brought

brought on many others, but without any material occurrence.

Mrs. Baddeley's benefit coming on, under the favourable circumstances of so many people of rank and distinction patronizing her, all the boxes were engaged; and many of them at a price, which seemed more like a magnificent present than a consideration for the seats. She was at this time engaged at Ranelagh, where Lord Palmerston saw her, and invited himself to tea, requesting to be admitted among the circle of her friends, and offering his service, where he could be of use to her. His Lordship was then one of the Lords of the Admiralty,

Admiralty, and Mrs. Baddeley, who was led on all occasions to do good where it was in her power, being desirous to serve a friend in the navy, availed herself of this offer, to get him promoted from the rank of lieutenant, to that of master and commander. His Lordship very politely replied, it would be conferring an obligation on himself; that the matter rested, indeed, with Lord Sandwich, but that he would speak to him on the subject. Lord Palmerston, blind, as many others are to their own imperfections, though he had an impediment to his speech, was very fond of reading to others, and requested permission of Mrs. Baddeley, to come occasionally and read to her. His request

request was complied with, and being with her one evening for the purpose, he took up a volume of Shenstone's poems, in which Hamlet's soliloquy is thus travestied, "To print, or not to print? That is the question," His Lordship's difficulty in articulating the word *pri..nt*, struck the company present, who were many, with different ideas, but they all burst into an involuntary fit of laughter. This so encreased his Lordship's difficulty, that he was totally deprived of utterance, which occasioned so many extraordinary and singular distortions of his features, that kept up the laugh to such a degree of violence, as obliged us to withdraw for a moment's relaxation. His Lordship remained thus

thus convulsed for five minutes, and nothing would relieve him but a glass of water. Reading for this evening was of course suspended; he took what passed in good-humour, and invited us to take chocolate with him next morning, when he hoped to give us an answer respecting his application to Lord Sandwich.

This request of Mrs. Baddeley's, gave his Lordship an opportunity of recommending himself to her favour, and pursuing those views he had in contemplation, but which he was very awkward in communicating. His visits were frequent, but to little effect. One day Mrs. Baddeley was indulging her

servants, in the Christmas holidays, with the amusements of a Camera Obscura, vulgarly called the Gallantry Show, which men carry about the streets in order to gain a livelihood. The exhibition was to be in the parlour, of course the room was darkened, and a large sheet fastened up against the wall.— Lord March, now Duke of Queensberry, at this instant rapped at the door, to whom we were denied; but, Lord Palmerston, who came just after, tho' the footman said we were not at home, hearing a laugh in the parlour, pushed forward; but, before he opened the door, we had even extinguished the light in the man's lanthorn, so as to be totally in the dark, that we might not be seen.

seen. This did not interrupt his Lordship ; he came bolt in, tumbled right over the box and the barrel organ, which he overset, and fell all along upon the floor. His Lordship, having broke his shins, cried out vociferously ; and having destroyed the show-box, the owner lamented his misfortune with “ Oh, mon ‘ Dieu !—Me be ruined !—Ma ma-“ chine est cassé !”—Lights were brought in, and the ridiculous scene that presented itself to his Lordship, who was quite at a loss to know the cause of his disaster, added to his embarrassment. He good-naturedly, however, requested that no apologies might be made, al- ledging that the fault was his ; gave the man two guineas for the injury he had

sustained, and finding us desirous of retiring, very politely took his leave and withdrew.

Next morning Lord March called again; with a design to invite us to dinner. He was shewn into the parlour, but observing a maid servant going up the stairs, he pursued her, and treating her with a degree of freedom which she thought rude and unbecoming, the girl turned about and pushed him down the whole flight. Not satisfied with this, she reeked her vengeance by throwing after him the contents of a pail she had in her hand, which fell upon his Lordship's cloaths and ribband; for he has the Order of the Thistle. The noise

noise alarmed us; we ran out to see what was the matter, and beheld his Lordship, with all the appendages of his person, in a situation truly laughable and ridiculous. We called our servants however, to disengage him from the effects of this disaster, and prevent him from the necessity of sending home for other cloaths.

Matters being accommodated by the concurrence of his Lordship's good temper, and the endeavours of the family, he prevailed on us to dine with him that day, and prior to dinner, to take an airing in Hyde Park, where he promised to meet and accompany us.

Whilst we were airing in the Park, a gentleman presented a letter to Mrs. Baddeley, saying, as he was commissioned to deliver it himself, he followed her to Hyde Park, having learned from her servants, in St. James's Place, that he would find her there. The letter was from his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, and the contents of it are as follow :

“ Dear Madam,

“ Your person and charms have
“ so far attracted my adoration, that I
“ solicit the honour of being permitted
“ to pay you a visit to tea this evening;
“ the

" the honour of your answer, with compliance, will ever be esteemed by,

" Dear Madam,

" Your constant admirer,

" Northumberland."

" Northumberland House, [redacted]

" Friday Morning.

Mrs. Baddeley returned a verbal answer to this effect, that " A prior engagement precluded her the honour intended by his Grace ; otherwise, among the rest of her friends, his Grace's company would be acceptable."

On our return from Lord March's after dinner, we found Mr. John Han-

ger

ger waiting for us. On being told this, Mrs. Baddeley went up stairs, and I went into the parlour to him. He made an apology for the liberty he had taken in waiting on us, and flattered himself he should be pardoned for his intrusion, if he was permitted to explain. I told him no explanation could atone for his behaviour to Mrs. Baddeley: she had nearly forgot his ill treatment of her, and wished not to renew the recollection of it. He begged permission to see her, and on being refused, his eyes, departing from the steadiness of manhood, played the woman; in short, he cried much, repeatedly exclaiming that he was a miserable and wretched man; that his life was a burden to him; that
he

he was a stranger to rest both day and night, and was determined, if Mrs. Baddeley would not be reconciled to him, that he would put an end to his existence. Mrs. Baddeley, who listened at the door, could no longer resist her inclinations to speak to him herself. She came into the parlour and told him in becoming terms, that of all men in the world, he had the least right to give her this trouble, and wondered, after his treatment of her, how he could presume to come where she was, more particularly into the house of her friend, to whom she was indebted for relief, when he abandoned her to distress. After deserting her, as an object unworthy of his care, attention, or notice, she

was

was at a loss to know, why he should alter his sentiments now, unless it was to have it in his power to act the same cruel scene over again, and have a future opportunity of laughing at her credulity, and the success of his own artifice. He wept bitterly at this reproach, begged and prayed to be heard; fell on his knees, and uttered the most fervent expressions of contrition for the impropriety of his conduct. His perseverance at last produced some emotions in Mrs. Baddeley, which her sensibility was not able to suppress, and her firmness gave way. He protested and vowed that he would study to atone for his past conduct, and solicited, that if she would not receive him on other

terms

terms, that she would permit him to visit her as a *friend* only, and give him leave occasionally to enquire how she did. His arguments prevailing, they continued together for several hours, which time was spent in tears on both sides. He, in the end, attained her permission to visit her as a friend, and so far re-introduced, he haunted the house eternally, and attended at every rehearsal and play where she was present. And this attention, I am persuaded, was more the effect of pride than affection: for the notice of Mrs. Baddeley was at that day sufficient to give credit and eclat to a man of the ton. This was one reason among others that induced men of the first rank and character

character to court her company as they did.

The interest which Mrs. Baddeley had in her Gaby's happiness, had not wholly ceased. Her love for him began to revive, and though for a time she struggled to suppress the influence of her affections in his favour, yet the latent spark soon glowed again, and Mr. Hanger became reposseſſed of that ascendency, which he was accustomed to have in her thoughts and esteem.

During the progress of this, her relapse to wretchedness, I used every argument experience and propriety could suggest to me, to save Mrs. Baddeley from

from her impending fate, and prevent her falling a sacrifice to the artifices of a man, who was capable of acting as Mr. Hanger had; but my remonstrances were ineffectual, for though Mrs. Baddeley made some efforts at my instigation to reject him, yet her easy and credulous heart was too much wrapped up in him, to consult her own happiness.

Seeing no other mode of estranging her from Mr. Hanger, I availed myself of the house being mine, having defrayed every expence attending it, and assured Mrs. Baddeley that I would not suffer my esteem for her to become subservient to the abuse and perversion

of my friendly intentions, and therefore asserted my right of insisting that Mr. Hanger's visits should be discontinued there.

Embarassed and perplexed between the contending passions of love and friendship, Mrs. Baddeley was undetermined. During this time, a volume of letters passed between them.

Whilst Mrs. Baddeley's resolution was thus fluctuating between gratitude and folly, or rather a tender and undisguised passion; Lord Melbourne took every opportunity to come forward and prove himself one of her admirers. This gentleman was about twenty-one years of age,

age, and had been married about ten months to a very amiable woman. For a length of time, he used every means to engage her attention at Ranelagh, but finding that an improper place for an interview, at least such a one as he wished, he applied to a friend, in confidence, to make her, in his name, an offer of share of his fortune, in exchange for the possession of her heart. This friend brought her a letter, inclosing a bill for 300*l.* which he very politely pressed her acceptance of, as a bagatelle, and to consider it only as a proof of his esteem, and that liberality which his affection for her would study to convince her of. Mrs. Baddeley did not refuse the present, but, knowing that

his Lordship was married to a lady of great personal and acquired accomplishments, who merited all his love and attention; she recommended it to him to pay that regard to his domestic happiness, which the partner of it had every title to, and give over any thoughts of expecting success with her, whose state of mind and disposition, put it out of her power to meet his Lordship's wishes.

This answer had no effect with him; his passion was rather increased than abated, and his liberality kept pace with it. During this time, Mr. Hanger became so troublesome, notwithstanding all my urging Mrs. Baddeley to discourage him, that I came to a resolution to quit

quit St. James's Place, and leave her to follow her own inclinations. This I partly did, by taking a house in the King's Road, Chelsea. At this she became almost inconsolable, protested she was not able to bear a separation from me, and on condition that I would not think of it, offered to conform to my wishes ; adding, that whatever prosperous situation she might be in, she would share what she had with me, as she was indebted to me for her happiness ; and her life, without my esteem and company, would be intolerable. In a word, she faithfully promised to relinquish every thought of Mr. Hanger, or any other person of whom I did not approve.

One day, however, when I was absent from my new house, Lord Melbourne got admittance in St. James's Place, to drink tea with her. On my return, I found them together. She came out to me, and on my remonstrating with her on the impropriety of her encouraging any gentleman's visits; his Lordship, who overheard me, and fearing an attack upon him personally, threw up the parlour window, and precipitately leaped out. Being too much in a hurry to take sufficient precaution about a safe landing place, he fell down the area; however, receiving no material hurt, he scrambled up again and took to his heels. His Lordship, however, as an attonement for his intrusion, left

bank

bank notes on the parlour table, to the amount of two hundred pounds.

Next morning his Lordship sent a letter, which will be found at the end of this volume; apologizing for his precipitate retreat, and requesting an interview in Henry the VIIth's chapel, in Westminster Abbey, as he had something of importance to communicate. Mrs. Baddeley consulted with me on this occasion, and my advice was, to take no notice of the letter; but she was rather resolute, saying, she was anxious to hear what he had to communicate, particularly as it could be attended with no harm in so public a place. Finding her determined to go, I told her

I would accompany her, and remonstrate with his Lordship on the impropriety of his conduct. The coach was ordered; we set out, and Lord Melbourne received us in the poet's-corner; we viewed the wax-work, and walked round the inner part of the Abbey several times; at last his Lordship requested Mrs. Baddeley's private ear for three minutes, which she refused, on the plea of my not permitting it, I then took the opportunity of representing to his Lordship the impropriety of his visits; he replied they were of the most friendly nature, and had nothing for their object, but a wish to be of service to her and to have the occasional enjoyment of her company among her other friends.

"Even admitting my Lord", says I,

"that

" that your visits are no other than
" friendly, it is incumbent on your
" Lordship to refrain from them, that
" you may not give pain to that amiable
" woman your Lady." He said, his re-
spect and affection for his Lady were fix-
ed and immovable, and he would not,
on any account attempt to hurt her peace
of mind ; it was far from his intentions :
but as to denying his visits to Mrs. Bad-
deley, it was to no purpose ; he must and
would see her, even at the risk of his
life. He had the highest regard for her,
lamented the fatigues to which her pro-
fession exposed her, and should be happy
to enable her to quit that profession, by
empowering her to live in an easier
sphere of life, then either a Theatre,

Ranelagh,

Ranelagh, or any public place of entertainment would admit of.

Mrs. Baddeley, whose inclination led her to quit the fatigues of a public life, listened to his Lordship's proposal, and encouraged him to repeat his entreaties to me, who shewed some displeasure on the occasion. An altercation then succeeded between me and his Lordship, on the leads of the Abbey, for sometime uninterrupted ; for there he dragged us as the most retired place. He declared that he felt himself so much obliged to Mrs. Baddeley for her goodness in listening to what he had to offer, and on the reliance she put on his sincerity, that he would spend his whole fortune if necessary

fary to defend and protect her; and turning to her, presented her with notes, to the amount of three hundred pounds. In a word, I was in some measure prevailed with, and his Lordship's visits were permitted at our house.

These unexpected sums of money served only to encourage Mrs. Baddeley's extravagance; for though she had many good qualities, she had a natural turn for spending of money profusely. Having almost the command of his Lordship's purse, she began to launch out into expences, she had restrained before. She went to Mr. Tomkin's the Jeweller, in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, and purchased a pair of diamond

ear-

ear-rings, ten diamond pins at twenty pounds each, nine rings, with plate, &c. &c. to the amount of nine hundred and twenty pounds. Mr. Tomkins had a diamond necklace, which he valued at four hundred and fifty pounds, this Mrs. Baddeley set her mind on being mistress of also; though she had not money to pay for it. He consented however, to let her have it, if I would give him my note for the money. With many intreaties she prevailed on me to do it; I gave him my note and it was paid when it became due.

On Lord Melbourne's next visit to Mrs. Baddeley, he praised the elegance and magnificence of the necklace, which he observed was not essential to add to

the

the beauty of the wearer. He thought it a cheap purchase, saying, having laid out his wife's whole fortune to the amount of thirty thousand pounds on the day of marriage, he must be some little judge of the value of diamonds.

Mr. Hanger, who still continued his visits, was one day told that they could not be received in future; at this he was almost in a fit of desperation, and said he was surely supplanted by some rival; after running on in this strain for some time, he informed us that he was a ruined man, for that a run of ill luck at Almacks the night before, had stripped him of all his cash. Mrs. Baddeley felt for him, and notwithstanding her determi-

nation not to see him, gave him some bank notes to the amount of two hundred pounds and upwards, for which he thanked her, but never repaid her.

Lord Melbourne, at his next visit, brought me my promissory note of hand for four hundred and fifty pounds, which I had given to Mr. Tomkins, he having called on the Jeweller and paid the money for it. He also requested Mrs. Baddeley would make him acquainted with what she might fancy in that way, and he would take care she should have it. As he came now purposely to bring me my note, he excused himself for leaving us with so much abruptness, being in haste he said, to attend his dear Betsy to the

the play, (this being the name by which he always called his wife), but that he would see us again the next day, when he hoped to find his amiable Mrs. Baddeley well.

Mrs. Baddeley on receiving these favours at his Lordship's hands, expressed the highest sense of gratitude and esteem, for his noble and liberal conduct to her, professing herself more indebted to his bounty than to any man living.

His Lordship having paid us a visit at Chelsea, after admiring the taste and elegance of the house and furniture, remarked that the situation was favourable to prevent his being noticed, whenever he was disposed to wait on us. He

proposed to Mrs. Baddeley to ride out daily for the good of her health, bought her a cream-coloured mare, which cost him sixty pounds, and presented me with a fine hunter which cost him fifty pounds.

We were next honoured with a visit from the Right Honourable Charles James Fox, but as the professions he made, were neither desireable nor acceptable, he was very coolly received. He took offence at it, and his resentment for Mrs. Baddeley's behaviour, shall not pass unnoticed.

Mrs. Baddeley now paid all due attention to her professional engagements; whenever she passed through the room

at Ranelagh, she attracted the notice of every eye, and the admiration of every tongue; but this excess of praise, though it might flatter the pride and vanity of any woman, did not affect her so, as to occasion any inattention in her to that propriety of conduct which good-breeding dictates. Lord Melbourne and his Grace of Ancaster, the husband of the present Duchess, were among the foremost who contended for her notice. The Duke's application met with a repulse, which he did not seem to like; for on making his proposals and begging her to consider of them by the next day, she very laconically told him she should not.

One evening, when we were drinking tea in the great room at Ranelagh, poor Gaby came up and begged a dish with us, more from ostentation than any other motive, that he might convince the town he was still in Mrs. Baddeley's good graces. She prudently however refused to countenance him in so public a place, and requested he would leave us, which with some reluctance he did.

Lord Melbourne, who was there the same evening and observed Mr. Hanger with us, noticed it with displeasure, but had no opportunity of expressing his sentiments at that place; but on our return home, we found his Lordship there before

fore us. He told Mrs. Baddeley he had her interest too much at heart, not to acquaint her that Mr. Hanger's attention to her was noticed by all her friends; that it made him wretched, to see a man, who had treated her with such ingratitude, accost her, and reasoned very properly on her submitting to hear any thing from him. Mrs. Baddeley declared that she had not the least partiality for him, and was determined for the future to treat him as his behaviour deserved. This declaration appeased his Lordship, and he promised, upon his honour, that if she would give up this man, who had endangered her life by his ingratitude and cruelty, he would continue to be her benefactor and friend through life.

I joined in this part of his Lordship's sentiments, and promised he should neither be received, nor countenanced in my house; nor, if I could help it, where Mrs. Baddeley was. His Lordship then took his leave, and saying Mrs. Baddeley must be in want of cash, left on the table two hundred pounds.

Lord Melbourne's liberality was not only noble in itself, but his manner of conferring a favour ever enhanced its value. Mrs. Baddeley could not but esteem so generous a friend, nor could I avoid uniting in his sentiments. The terms on which his Lordship bestowed all these favours, did honour to his disinterestedness.

On

On the receipt of this money, Mrs. Baddeley began to consider how she should lay it out. The carriage was ordered next morning to take her to a rehearsal at the Theatre, but in the way she called at Mr. King's, the mercer, in King Street, Covent Garden, and purchased silk to the amount of one hundred and twenty pounds, which she instantly paid for. We then proceeded to the green-room, where Mr. Baddeley desired to speak with me. He informed me he had passed the bond his wife had given him, to a Mr. Freeman, a woollen-draper, in Gracechurch-street, and that the first payment of eighty pounds, was due upon it. I told him I would call and pay it, which I did the next day. This was part

of Mr. Baddeley's debts, which his wife bound herself to pay on their separation, as I before mentioned.

On our return home, we found that Lord Milton's Son, Mr. John Damer had called and left a note, the purport of which was relative to a report he had heard at Almacks the night before, and that he would wait on us the next day at twelve. Lord Palmerston also called the same evening, to acquaint us, with his non-success with Lord Sandwich, in his application for Mrs. Baddeley's friend, for which he expressed himself truly sorry. His Lordship proposed reading to us again, and took up a volume of Dodgley's poems for that purpose,

pose, but recollecting the circumstances attending his last performance in that way, I smiled; and Mrs. Baddeley did the same. His Lordship little conceiving what we smiled at, expressed a wish to know it, that he might join us in our mirth. This however put the reading off, and after supper he took his leave.

The next morning Dr. Arne called on us, to instruct Mrs. Baddeley in a new piece that was shortly to be performed. After some time the conversation turned on a famous female fortune-teller, who was deaf and dumb, but who wrote the fortune of any person, during the time she was conversing with them. Lord Palmerston who came in, in the interim, wished

wished to be one of the party to go and consult her. Dr. Arne's lessons were of course deferred, the coach was ordered, and Dr. Arne and his Lordship accompanied us to Leman-street, Goodman's-fields, to hear what this good prophetess would have to say. When we came to her house, we found a well-dressed woman, apparently deaf and dumb, who wrote on a slate that her fee was half a guinea each, and requesting to know which of us was first desirous of learning our fortune. I was conducted forward; and this fortune-teller surprised us much. She mentioned several things which had occurred in the course of my life, and we therefore expected she could tell what was to come. In speaking of

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley, she said her father would shortly die, and her prediction was fulfilled; for he died at Windsor, a few days afterwards, and was interred at St. Margaret's Westminster, at her expence: his funeral cost her 40l. It is but justice to the sensibility and feelings of Mrs. Baddeley, in this place, to say, that she ever shewed the highest affection and attention to her parents, and from this time gave her mother three guineas a week during her life. I must also mention here another instance of her filial affection. Her father was, as I have said before, Serjeant-trumpeter to the King, and being once pushed hard for money, he had no resource to raise it, but by applying to a Pawn-broker in the

Strand, and pledging the appendages of his office, viz. his silver collar of SS. a silver mace, and three silver trumpets. Receiving any thing in pawn belonging to his Majesty is illegal, and attended with a penalty; but the person to whom the application was made, being personally acquainted with Mr. Snow, consented to take these articles for the loan of the sum he wanted. Mr. Snow was sometime afterwards called upon to attend in his place at Windsor, during an installation, and he was then unable to redeem his regalia. He applied to the Pawn-broker to indulge him with the use of them, for that day, offering him a premium for the same, and also to pay the expence

pence of a person to come and attend the installation, to whom the property should be returned, as soon as the ceremony was over; but he could not succeed, nor would the Pawn-broker's humanity step forth upon this occasion, though the poor man's bread and character were at stake. In this situation he could only have recourse to his daughter, who then lived in Dean-street; and it happened at that period, when she was herself in the greatest distress, when she was impoverished and sick and abandoned to want, as I have related it, by the desertion of Mr. Hanger. At this time I had relieved her from her difficulties, and being made acquainted with Mr. Snow's embarrass-

ment, I enabled her to relieve him also; and I must say that, on this occasion, she expressed a greater sensibility of gratitude to me than at any other time, when I endeavoured to be of use to her.— But to resume my narrative:

On our return from the Fortune-teller's, we found Mr. Damer waiting for us. He wished to communicate the substance of a report which Gaby had circulated of the preference he still held in Mrs. Baddeley's favour, and that all endeavours to supplant him there were ineffectual; that the ascendency he had over her insured him a permanence of her attachment, which no temptation could alienate; that she rejected every proposal

posal made to her by others, and that his dictates were the sole guide of her actions; that Lord Melbourne had been trying what he could do, but that on his approach, he leaped out of the parlour window, and he wished the circumstance was as public as it was notorious. Mr. Damer said he could not be privy to expressions so injurious to Mrs. Baddeley's character, consistent with the respect he had for her, without making her acquainted with it. This matter came afterwards to Lord Melbourne's ear, the result of which shall be mentioned hereafter.

Soon after the death of her father, Mrs. Baddeley applied by letter to Lord

Hertford, then Lord Chamberlain, in behalf of her mother, who was left a widow, in the most distressed circumstances ; and begged leave to wait on his Lordship to explain herself more fully. His Lordship returned an answer in his own hand-writing, of which the following is a copy.

“ Lord Hertford’s compliments to
“ Mrs. Baddeley, is extremely sorry to
“ hear of the death of her Father ; will
“ be happy to see Mrs. Baddeley to-
“ morrow morning in Grosvenor-street,
“ to receive her communications. If
“ he can be of service to the widow, she
“ may command him.

“ *Grosvenor-street.*”

We

We waited on his Lordship next morning, and were politely received. Mrs. Baddeley represented the destitute state of her mother since her father's death, in very affecting terms, till tears stopped her utterance. I then mentioned the particulars of her situation, and urged every matter that I thought would have weight in her behalf. Lord Hertford paid particular attention, called for chocolate, and promised to devise something for the advantage of Mrs. Snow. Soon after, he sent Mrs. Baddeley word that a trumpeter's place was vacant, and if Mrs. Snow could procure any one to perform the duties of it, the emoluments should be her's. We told his Lordship, that we believed Mr. Yates, the dancing-master,

master, would undertake it, but on asking him the question, he replied, he should be glad to purchase the place, but as to performing the duty for another, he could not think of it. An agreement therefore was made between him and Mrs. Baddeley, for the purchase, and he agreed to give her four hundred pounds on the appointment. She then wrote to Lord Hertford, as follows:

“ My Lord,

“ Mr. Yates has agreed to perform
“ the duty of the employment, in
“ favour of my mother, I request there-
“ fore, your Lordship will please to ap-
“ point

" point him agreeable to your kind
" promises ; and I remain with thanks,

" My Lord,

" Your respectful obliged

" humble servant,

" Sophia Baddeley".

To which she received a polite answer,
with a promise of compliance. Mr.
Yates's name was immediately entered
on Lord Hertford's list, and on receiv-
ing his warrant, he paid the four hundred
pounds to Mrs. Snow.

The Serjeant-trumpeter's place being
not yet disposed of, Mrs. Baddeley made
an attempt to procure it for her brother,
who was then a trumpeter to the house-
hold,

hold, but as she had so lately troubled Lord Hertford, she did not think proper to apply to him again, particularly as he had refused Mr. Snow, who applied for it as an hereditary right; she determined therefore to apply to the Duke of Gloucester in his behalf and wrote him the following letter.

“ Mrs. Baddeley presents her respectful compliments to his Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, begging the honour of an interview, having something of consequence to communicate.

“ Grafton-street.

“ Tuesday morning.”

This

This letter was taken by her footman and delivered to Mr. Adams, one of his Highness's pages, the Duke being not at home; and Mr. Adams sent his compliments back to Mrs. Baddeley, saying, she might rely upon it's being delivered. At five o'clock the same afternoon, Mr. Adams waited on her and told her that he had delivered her letter to his Royal Highness, who would have written an answer, but was then going to dinner; however he returned his respectful compliments and would be glad to see her at Gloucester-house next morning at eleven. "I shall be in waiting", said Mr. Adams, "and if you will please to enquire for me I will introduce you". Accordingly we dressed ourselves

selves in the best manner, (for she begged me to go with her,) and when we reached Gloucester-house, we enquired for Mr. Adams, who handed us from the carriage, and shewed us into an elegant apartment, where we waited till his Highness was made acquainted with our being there. We were then conducted to him, and he handed Mrs. Baddeley a chair to sit down; she begged his Royal Highness's pardon for the liberty she had taken, but having a great favour to ask, in which no time could be lost, she was the more desirous of seeing him herself. The Duke replied, that he thought himself honoured by her visit, and there was no favour she could ask, in his power to grant, that she might not then

then command, she then acquainted him with her father's death, and of the place he held, and the great wish she had that her brother should succeed him; and on his enquiring how he could serve her in this matter; she said, by speaking a word either to Lord Hertford, or his Majesty. His Highness replied, that, was the place in his disposal, it should be at her command, but as he made it a point, and had ever done so, not to ask a favour of his brother, nor of any placeman under him, he was sorry it was not in his power to oblige her; but that if there should be any vacancy in his own establishment, either in his band, or household, that would be acceptable, she might depend on it, he would himself

on any application of her's, provide for her brother, or her friend.—Chocolate was then brought, and his Highness was pleased to say, the stage had sustained a great loss in her, and he hoped she would return to the Theatre, to gratify her friends. She replied, that she did not ever intend it. Some few words further passed; she thanked his Royal Highness for his obliging offers, and polite condescension; and took her leave. He conducted her himself through the apartments, then made his bow, and Mr. Adams handed her to her coach.

The day after we had received Mr. Damer's information, respecting Mr. Hanger;

Hanger; Mrs. Baddeley received the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

“ My Dearest Love,

“ I shall do myself the pleasure
“ of calling on you this evening, on my
“ return from the play, where I am to
“ accompany my dear Betsy; I shall not
“ stay out the entertainment; beg you
“ will be at home, having something to
“ communicate very particular to you,
“ and remain,

“ Your’s ever,

“ Melbourne”.

In the evening he came according to appointment; and the design of his visit was nothing less than an injunction to

us, not to admit of Mr. Hanger's visits; saying, he had been informed at Almack's that Mr. Hanger had taken the liberty of mentioning his name in a manner he had no right to do, for which at a future day, he shall call him to an account. I assured his Lordship his injunctions were unnecessary, as I was determined he should neither have countenance, nor admittance into my house; convinced that Mrs. Baddeley had suffered enough through him already, I was resolved if possible to prevent the same thing happening again. At this Lord Melbourne expressed himself satisfied and happy.

Mrs. Baddeley had now a new part to study for the Theatre, and was expected

pected to be ready for it in the course of five days. This kept her at home for a few days, but the first time she went out, in her way to the Theatre, she called at Mr. Price's, haberdasher, in Tavistock-street, paid a bill of seventy pounds, for ribbands, gauses, &c. &c. and laid out forty pounds more. Amid all the extravagancies however, that she was guilty of, she never withheld her mite from the distresses of the unfortunate. Her dress was often the admiration of the green-room, (a place where the players at the Theatre assemble behind the curtain), and when she found any part of it would be acceptable to the admirer, she frequently made an offer of it, and it changed owners. It is not exaggeration

to say, that she was the idol of the performers, who either through sincerity or lucrative motives, paid her all the attention possible; and it may be truly said, there was not a single person belonging to the Theatre, from the highest performer to the lowest, but experienced her liberality, as even Mrs. Barry herself must allow. This spirit she carried to excess. Mrs. Hopkins of Drury-lane Theatre, paid her a visit one morning whilst she was dressing, and admiring a set of silver filagree boxes that ornamented her toilet, Mrs. Baddeley presented her with as many as filled her pockets, and she carried them home with her.

At

At this time the Stratford Jubilee had a run at Drury-lane, and Miss Radley, who played with Mrs. Baddeley in that piece, so far ingratiated herself with her, that she gave her all the jewels she wore, before she purchased her new set; and these could not amount to less than a hundred pounds. She gave Miss Radley also money and other valuables. Sundry other acts of a similar kind did she perform, in behalf of the comedians of the Theatre to which she belonged: in short, she had no bounds to extravagance in dress, and let what she purchased be ever so costly; before she had worn it three or four times, she would give it to her maid-servant.

The general satisfaction Mrs. Baddeley gave in every part she undertook, entitled her, as she thought, to an increase of salary, and she made an application to Mr. Garrick for that purpose; but he refused it, and sent Mr. Wallis, his attorney, to tell her so. This so angered her, that she declared she would not appear upon the stage again till he complied with her request. Lord Melbourne came in at this instant, and she made him acquainted with the circumstance. His Lordship, taking advantage of this determination of hers, said all he could to keep her up to it; assuring her, she might rely upon him for protection, as he wished to relieve her from the fatigues of a theatrical life.

life, and saying, he would put her in possession of three times more than she earned by her profession. She urged many objections to this plan, but his Lordship used every argument to remove them. Mrs. Baddeley, however being incensed at Mr. Garrick, listened to Lord Melbourne's proposals, and was inclined to accept them. She determined, therefore, to break off with Mr. Garrick, and actually retired from the stage for two years. This was also the last season of her singing at Ranelagh.

Having now more time upon her hands, she had a greater opportunity of indulging herself in pleasure. Her usual extravagance

extravagance was not abated by the loss of her salary ; but, on the contrary, she launched out into the pursuit of every gratification which ingenuity and invention could devise.

Mrs. Baddeley, now quitting the line of that profession, which was the condition on which I consented to remain with her ; I quitted the house at Chelsea, and hired another in Grafton-street, Bond-street, with a view of letting it out in lodgings. Mr. Gray was the landlord, and the rent two hundred pounds a year. This done, I acquainted Mrs. Baddeley with it, and she was so affected at the information, as to burst into a flood of tears, and entreated

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ed me not to leave her, protesting, that life would be insupportable without me. Lord Melbourne came in at this juncture, and seeing Mrs. Baddeley in tears, enquired the cause of it, and being told, he used every argument in his power to dissuade me from the measure, saying, he had a matter to propose, which he hoped would not prove unacceptable; this was, to pay me every shilling Mrs. Baddeley owed me, and to take the rent of Grafton-street house upon himself; on condition I would permit her to remain with me as before. He disliked the house at Chelsea, thought it far from a safe retreat, and was anxious to have us out of it. Mrs. Baddeley joined in these entreaties, exerting

erting all the influence she was sensible she had with me, and I was prevailed on to acquiesce.

His Lordship now presented Mrs. Baddeley with bank-notes, to the amount of two hundred pounds, in lieu of the salary she had given up; but he omitted to discharge the debt due to me, as he promised. However, his liberality was by no means to be brought in question, as he acted in every other instance with generosity, and a due regard to his word.

Lord Melbourne was not the brightest man of the age, as his letters sent to Mrs. Baddeley at times, will shew, and
he

he is one among many of the fashionable men of the age, who are acquainted neither with good grammar or orthography. See one or two of his letters at the end of this volume.

We removed into Grafton-street, and Mrs. Baddeley, even in this change of circumstances, escaped the tongue of slander. The multitude of her admirers, vying with each other to gain her esteem, left her but little leisure to regret her want of employ. Their offers were great, but made to no purpose, she turning a deaf ear to every one but him to whom her faith was pledged. The presents she received were of no small value;

value; of course she had no reason to regret the being out of public employ.

The Duke of Northumberland, not satisfied with the answer Mrs. Baddeley returned to his letter, brought her into Hyde Park; sent his secretary with a note, requesting he might be indulged with leave to wait on her. His request was complied with, and his Grace drank tea with us. At this visit he told Mrs. Baddeley, that he was actuated by an impression which all his resolution was not able to resist; and that her affections were such an object to him, that on condition, she would accept of his patronage and protection, he would discharge every debt she owed, present her with

with a thousand guineas as an earnest of his esteem, and settle on her an annuity of five hundred pounds a year. To this proposal I instantly replied, that if his Grace's whole fortune was to be added to what he now offered, Mrs. Baddeley could not accept it. This perplexed the Duke at first, but soon recovering himself, he began to expostulate, and said, as his secrecy might be relied on in this matter, no one could, or should be acquainted with a tittle of it. He spent upwards of three hours with us, labouring to obtain a favourable turn in Mrs. Baddeley's sentiments, but to no purpose. He said, however, on taking leave, that he should not consider this as a denial, but

would, with her leave, persevere in his application, hoping at last to make some favourable impression on her heart.

During his Grace's visit, Lord Mel bourne called, and finding company, left word he would call again the next day. Lord Grosvenor also called, and left his name, saying, he would take another opportunity to pay his respects to her; as did also the Honourable Robert Conway, son to Lord Hertford, and left his compliments. Lord March (now Duke of Queensberry) also called, and on being told we were indisposed, and could not see company, sent in word that he had something of importance

ance to communicate. He was on this shewn up stairs, and this matter of importance turned out only to be an invitation to dine with him the next day, which we accepted.

On Lord March's leaving us, the carriage was ordered, and we went to King's, the mercer, in King-street, Co-vent-garden, who was not sparing in shewing the most costly and extravagant silks to tempt Mrs. Baddeley's fancy; and I will take this opportunity to observe, that persons in trade, who can have access to women in the situation Mrs. Baddeley was then in, are not wanting in industry to study for opportunities of laying before them, a va-

riety of pleasing and fashionable articles, and will give them credit to any amount. Mrs. Baddeley, at this time, could have almost had what credit she pleased, but paid well in price for this indulgence; whereas, she was no sooner looked cool upon by her friends, than these tradesmen became very importunate, and even insolent. I don't say this was the case with Mr. King, for she seldom was in his debt. She laid out with him this morning, and paid him, two hundred pounds, for a new coach lining, hammer-cloth, with sundry silks, at two guineas a yard. On setting out, she was determined, she said, to go a *shopping*; and true enough she did. She purchased also articles from Mr. Price,
of

of Tavistock-street, to a great amount; from thence she went to Mr. Jefferson's the jeweller, at Charing-cross, where she bought a pair of diamond ear-rings which cost her three hundred pounds; and from thence to her milliner's, and other places. In short, she spent the whole day in purchasing, and laid out to the amount of seven hundred pounds. In our way home our carriage was interrupted in the Haymarket, by a crowd gathered round a poor man, who had fallen down under his load and broke his leg. Her humanity exerted itself upon this occasion; she stopped the carriage, gave him five guineas, and paid for a chair to take him to the hospital. On our return home, we found cards

of compliments from Sir Francis Molineux and Lord Sefton.

Few persons in the world experienced it's similes more than Mrs. Baddeley did at this time; rank and fortune bowed before her, and it rested with herself, whether she would be mistress of a competence or not. Frugality was no part of her disposition. Had she had discretion, and sufficient steadiness to husband what she received, she might have saved a comfortable resource for a future day; but given up, as she was, to profuseness and extravagance, she thoughtlessly squandered, what would have made her happy when her friends deserted her.

Lord

Lord Melbourne called in the evening, and Mrs. Baddeley displayed before him the many purchases she had that day made. His Lordship's reply was, he hoped she had pleased herself; then turned round and presented her with three hundred pounds, apologizing that he had not sufficient about him to discharge her little account: at this she told him he need not be uneasy, for the bills were all paid. His Lordship then related a laughable circumstance that happened since he saw us last. He had made a purchase of Holland House, in Piccadilly, for sixteen thousand pounds, with the ground belonging to it. The steward appointed to receive the cash, waited on his Lordship for that purpose. Having received

received it in bank-notes, he put them in his pocket-book, and laying it on the table, whilst he signed an acknowledgment for the money, went away and left it there. As soon as Lord Melbourne perceived it, he dispatched his servant after him, but he was gone too far to be recalled; of course his Lordship put it away safely for him. The steward having several other matters of business to transact, in the course of the day, did not miss his pocket-book till he was going to bed. When he began to undress himself, in a fit almost of distraction at his loss, as he could not recollect where he had left it, he determined to go back to every place where he had been that day; first calling

ing at Lord Melbourne's, and in the confusion he forgot his wig, and came without it. In this state he begged to see his Lordship, but was informed he was not at home. Not believing this, he pushed up stairs, and entered the room where Lady Melbourne was sitting. Alarmed at seeing a strange man entering her room bare-headed, at that time of night, for it was near twelve, she screamed; but on the servants coming up, and her being made acquainted with the man's errand, as she could give no information concerning it, she could only pity him, and his distressed state of mind. Lord Melbourne soon after came home, to whom the poor man, with frantic wildness, mixed with melancholy,

melancholy, told his story, and the joy that succeeded when his Lordship returned him his book, may be better conceived than described.

Lord Pigot, who originally availed himself of the sanction his gravity gave him in our house, but whose professed friendship afterwards kindled into a more interesting sensation; called upon us one day, and invited us to pass a few days at Brighthelmstone, which we accepted, and promised to be there on the Sunday following. We set out in our phaeton, and arrived at his Lordship's by dinner time. His attention and politeness were not the least abated by the repulse he met with, when he made declarations

clarations of love to Mrs. Baddeley, and after dinner he proposed a walk. A house on the Stein being then to let, next the Duke of Marlborough's, we went to look at it, and on viewing it, hired it as a temporary residence; and as it was ready for our reception, we took possession of it that evening.

The charms of the season had drawn together at this place, a great number of people of the first fashion, and every thing contributing to make this retreat desirable; we resolved to spend as much time there as we could. After placing the house under the care of proper servants, we returned the next day to London. Lord Melbourne was fur-

prized at not being informed of this excursion, and Mrs. Baddeley seeming to be hurt at his Lordship's suppositions, an explanation took place, and he was told every thing that passed : his Lordship was pleased to express a satisfaction at our having taken a house at Brighthelmstone, as he was under a necessity of going with his dear Betsy to Scarborough, for a month, and hoped Mrs. Baddeley would find sea-bathing and sea-breezes conduce to her health. As this, he said, was dear to him, he particularly recommended to her the care of it, it having been much injured by too close an application to her theatrical engagements. On his return to town, he promised to pay us a visit there,

there, and her coach was new painted, and highly varnished for the journey.

His Lordship informed us that he was at the rehearsal of the opera, the day before, with Lady Melbourne, and that the audience was as numerous as if it was evening; and was particularly pleased with Madame Heinel's dancing, which exceeded his expectations. He next informed us of a paragraph he had seen in the news-papers that day respecting him, which must have been inserted by some malicious person. It was to this effect, "that he had pur-
" chased a diamond necklace for Mrs.
" Baddeley, and that the jeweller had
" taken it home to his Lordship's house

" through mistake; that it fell into
" Lady Melbourne's hands, who con-
" ceiving it purchased for her, approved
" his Lordship's choice, and put it
" among the rest of her jewels; and that
" on his coming home, her Ladyship
" thanked him for his present, which
" surprized and alarmed him." Every
circumstance of this story was false and
groundless, and it was manifestly in-
serted for some evil purpose; it, how-
ever, failed in it's design; for Lady
Melbourne, reading the paragraph, only
smiled at the tale, and said, the paper
might have been better employed.

Mrs. Baddeley acquainted Lord Mel-
bourne, that she proposed going to
Richmond

Richmond next day to see a friend ; his Lordship wished to be of the party, but she put a negative on it, as his Lordship being seen with her there, would be in him an act of impropriety. He smiled acquiescence, and we went to Richmond without him. Our party consisted of six, among whom were Lord Stanley (now Lord Derby) and Thomas Storer, Esq. The day was very agreeably spent ; the entertainment was splendid ; a well-chosen band of music, and some excellent voices performed during the evening, and we returned to town late.

Going to the rehearsal at the Opera-house, according to Lord Melbourne's

recommendation, in order to see Madame Heinel dance, the Honourable Mr. Hobart, and Mr. Crawford, joint-managers, came up to us, and paid their respects. Mr. Hobart begged leave to pay Mrs. Baddeley a visit, having something particular to say to her. She, not suspecting his business was of any other nature than relative to the box I had engaged, told him she should be happy to see him when he called. On our return home in the evening, we found Mr. Hobart there, who said he had waited for us an hour. The purport of his visit was to make Mrs. Baddeley a profession of his love, with an offer of his protection, and the command of whatever was in his power to endow her with.

with. She thanked him for his kind intentions, but told him, whatever opinion he might entertain of her from appearance, he could have no ground to form the smallest hopes of success in his present proposal. Her attention was solely fixed to one object, from whom her esteem and gratitude were inseparable. Mr. Hobart remonstrated, and pressed his suit with all the arguments he was master of; but Mrs. Baddeley assured him that his visits on any other terms than those of friendship would be inadmissible, and as a *friend*, she could have no objection to the honour of his acquaintance among that of others.

Before Mr. Hobart withdrew, he requested we would permit him to give us a receipt for our box at the Opera-house, the price of which was eighty pounds for the season. We refused this offer, but Mr. Hobart persisting in it, we were constrained to accept it. He wrote a receipt and left it, professing himself happy in being admitted into the class of Mrs. Baddeley's friends. Before he withdrew, he informed us, that there would be shortly a masquerade at the Opera-house, and he should take the liberty to send us tickets.

Mr. Timothy Caswell, then Secretary to Mr. Rigby, an old acquaintance of Mrs. Baddeley's, waited on her one day, and

and told her that a person with whom he was intimately acquainted, was very desirous of being introduced to her ; her reply was, that any friend of his would be well received. In a few days this friend was introduced, whose name shall be mentioned hereafter.

The reader will naturally be inquisitive to know whether among all these visitants she had not seen Mr. John Hanger. To satisfy him in this, I will inform him, that one evening when she was at Vauxhall-gardens, since she dropped her professional character; he came up to her, and addressed her with his usual confidence and flattery. She entreated he would leave her, but he declared

declared he would not. She then determined, in order to get rid of him, to leave the gardens, and went to the house of a friend in King's-row Chelsea, to spend the evening.

Lord Melbourne having occasion to go down with a friend to his country-seat, near Hatfield ; Mrs. Baddeley took the opportunity to visit Oxford, and when every thing was arranged for the purpose, Mr. Damer called and requested to be of the party, but was refused. We ordered our coach and four and took Dr. Arne with us ; and stopping in our way there, at Maidenhead-bridge, were handed from our carriage by Lord Villiers, and the late Lord Lyttelton,

Lyttelton, who insisted we should stay and dine with them. Though we would not permit Mr. Damer to go with us, yet on our arrival at Oxford, no sooner did we reach the inn, than this gentleman presented himself to hand us out, having been at Oxford two hours waiting for us. We could not refuse him our company, and he ordered a very elegant supper for us at his own expence. We parted for the evening, but in the morning he breakfasted with us, and conducted us to the several colleges. In the evening we set off again for town, and Mr. Damer would entertain us again at Salthill. As he had not an opportunity of saying what he wished to Mrs. Baddeley, he endeavoured by his eyes

eyes and inuendos to explain himself, but she parried the whole so dexterously as not to seem to notice them. The fineness of the day led us into the garden, and to our great surprise, we were there accosted by Mr. John Hanger, who had left town in search of us: he would fain have joined us, but was absolutely refused. "Well," says he, turning to Mr. Damer, "since you won't let me be of your party, I am determined I'll tell." "Do so," says he, "and it will reflect an honour on me, for I shall glory in having it known with whom I spent the day." We laughed heartily and he left us. "This man" says Mr. Damer, "is now so angry, that he would destroy me if he could, for my attention to you; but

" but whilst I am pursuing the wish of
" my heart, I neither regard what he
" can devise or effect; so as he does
" not interrupt the happiness of my
" friend" (looking stedfastly at Mrs.
Baddeley); " and I hope I may take the
" liberty to call you by that endearing
" name, though that of lover would suit
" my feelings best". " Leave love out
" of the question"; replies Mrs. Bad-
deley, " and call upon me for as much
" friendship, as my mind is capable of
" entertaining, and your suit will not
" be in vain; but as my heart is not my
" own, to talk of love would be injuri-
" ous to us both". Mr. Damer listen-
ed, looked, and wished to speak, but
had not power; a silence of some length

ensued, and yet the party was as much engaged, as if they had all been talking. The eloquent sensibility of the eyes conveyed information to the mind of every one. Mrs. Baddeley at last broke the silence, by warbling forth the words of an old song, with which she had often charmed a listening crowd.

Before we go away, sir,
As we may never meet again,
Give me leave to thank you, sir,
For the gen'rous care you've ta'en.

Your candour might impeach me,
Were I blind to your desert ;
Though love can never reach me,
Friendship may touch my heart.

The

The evening advancing fast, we proposed setting off, and Mr. Damer requesting a seat in our coach, we gave him a cast to town, and set him down at the end of Park-lane, continuing our way to Grafton-street, where we found that Lord Palmerston, Lord Clanbrazil, Sir Thomas Mills, Mr. Caswell, and Mr. Hanger had called; but the latter had said nothing of his having seen us at Salt-hill.

In our absence, our cook was delivered of a fine boy, which Mrs. Baddeley, having no children of her own, thought proper to adopt, and put it out to nurse at her own expence, suffering the mo-

ther to continue in our house till she was able to go abroad.

This was not the only child her humanity led her to adopt, she had the son of her nurse at school at her own expence, whom she cloathed, and to whom she gave the best education ; and did a thousand little kindnesses to his mother.

The next morning after our return from Oxford, Lord Melbourne called, being just returned from the country ; he could not, he said, suffer a day to pass, without seeing his dear love, though he must return to his dear Betsy in the evening. We made him acquainted with our excursion to Oxford, and said Dr.

Arne

Arne was of the party, but not a word of Mr. Damer. In the evening he returned to his seat in the country, where he proposed to stay two days.

He was no sooner gone than we ordered our phaeton, and horses for our servants, and set off for Richmond Theatre, where Dr. Arne had invited us to a party with Capt. William Fawkn̄er, son to Lady Fawkn̄er, but now Lady Paulet; though he did not tell us, he had acquainted the Captain with the favour we designed him. We no sooner entered the box, than Captain Fawkn̄er followed us, and instantly addressed us, with, He had impatiently waited our arrival for some time, and was

fearful we should not come ; saying Dr. Arne had given him hopes of seeing us, but did not absolutely say we should be there. Being strangers to this gentleman, we were at a loss to know who he was, who still continued talking to us ; said, he had seen the same play twice before, and it was so wretchedly performed, that he was sure it would give us no pleasure, and advised us to leave the Theatre. Dr. Arne who followed him in, joined him in his request. After a little time, we took his advice and retiréd to the Castle Inn, to tea, where Captain Fawkner attended us. He soon began to deal in flames and darts ; in short, to say, he was over head and ears in love with Mrs. Baddeley, whom

he

he had long wished for the happiness of conversing with ; in a word, no pen can describe the complexion and turn of the nonsense that fell from this gentleman's tongue. I gave him some of my friendly advice, but without effect ; and Mrs. Baddeley paying too great an attention to what he was saying, I thought proper to order the carriage, and was setting off to town by myself, but Mrs. Baddeley followed me out and requested I would not leave her. After telling her how improperly she acted, she took leave of Captain Fawkner, and we set off for town together. The Captain earnestly entreated leave to accompany us, but was refused. Mrs. Baddeley, however, as I afterwards understood, made

made a private engagement to meet Mr. Fawkner again, whilst I was ordering the carriage. In our way home we took up Mr. Hobart on the road, whom we met on horseback, and set him down in St. James's Square.

On our return home I took Mrs. Baddeley to task for her imprudence, in listening to Captain Fawkner's nonsense; a man whom she had never seen before. Mrs. Baddeley laughed, which made me enquire further into the business; at last she thought proper to tell me, that she had seen him before, and that the appointment to meet him at Richmond, was by her own desire, through the means of Dr. Arne. This gave

gave me more uneasiness than I ever felt before, as I now found Mrs. Baddeley abused my confidence, and was not to be depended on. She was in the situation of him described by the Poet.

He who first sins, like him who treads on ice,
Glides trembling down the slipp'ry paths of vice ;
At first thrice cautious, but the fears got o'er,
He glides on boldly, and looks back no more.

Calling at our mantua-maker's the next morning, we saw a dress belonging to Mrs. Abington of Drury-lane Theatre, which we thought uncommonly beautiful: it was a muslin sprigged with gold; Mrs. Abington's own work in the Tambour. Mrs. Baddeley seeming to covet it, the woman told her she believed

believed Mrs. Abington would part with it. This induced us to call on Mrs. Abington, and twenty guineas being the price put on it, which was far below it's value, Mrs. Baddeley purchased it. This accidental interview brought on a conversation about a ready-furnished house at Hammersmith-hope, which Mrs. Abington wished to part with also. The situation being near the river, she said it was delightful, and we were induced to go and see it. An invitation accordingly took place to spend a day there. We went and could not but admire it's beauty, it's neatness, and elegance, qualities which were apparent in every thing Mrs. Abington possessed, and shewed us that she had equally as refined a taste in
furnishing

furnishing a house, as in making up a
dress.

We were of course anxious to become
possessed of it. Two hundred and fifty
pounds was the value set upon the fur-
niture, and the lease to be paid for be-
sides. I agreed that evening to purchase
the whole at the fixed price, called on
Mrs. Abington the next day and paid
her the money. This, with Grafton-
street house, and the house at Bright-
helmstone was the third residence we at
one time possessed. It is but justice to the
liberality of Mrs. Abington, to say, that
the price she put upon the furniture was
much less than what a broker who saw
it

it had valued it at; of course we thought ourselves obliged.

On our return home after this purchase, Mrs. Baddeley found the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

" My Dear Love,

" I am hurt, it is not in my power
" to come to town to see your sweet
" face until to-morrow. Pray my dear
" be at home, I have something to
" tell you of consequence, besides my
" own wish of being happy in your dear
" company. God bless your sweet
face; adieu until to-morrow.

Your's to command,

Melbourne.

- Brocket-ball,

Monday morning.

This

This intelligence was matter of chagrin to Mrs. Baddeley, as it not only disappointed her of seeing Lord Melbourne as soon as she expected, but it broke off an engagement she had made with me the next day; so that she peevishly wished his Lordship was further off than a few miles from town. She thought proper to tell me, that, when I was gone to take possession of the house at Hammersmith, she received a visit from Captain Fawkner, who staid with her an hour and a half; she called him a good young man, and expressed herself very happy in his company. Not contented with this, she passed on him the highest encomiums, spoke highly of his personal accomplishments, and declar-

ed he was as handsome as an angel. In short, she said so much in his favour and of the pleasure she felt in his company, that I could not but censure her for her imprudence. I told her, as I could not conceive upon what pretence he came, I should take an opportunity to affront him, the next time he presumed to come into my house. Besides, Captain Fawkner being a man of universal gallantry, attached to no individual, and who boasted of favours he pretended to have received from a married Lady of the first rank, which was notoriously false, I thought him a very dangerous companion: " therefore," says I, " let his beauty and accomplishments be what they will, I never wish to see
 " him

“ him again. He that will tell me one
“ lie, will not hesitate at another, and if
“ he could speak so freely and basely
“ of a Lady, on whom there was never
“ the least impeachment of character,
“ what may you not expect, he will one
“ day say of you”? The lady I alluded
to was, in every sense of the word, truly
virtuous, though unhappy in a dissipated
husband, and no woman during a long
separation from his bed, acted with
more becoming prudence, or propriety
than she did, till at last she brought him
to a sense of his indiscretion, and re-
covered him to the enjoyment of do-
mestic happiness.

Mrs. Baddeley acknowledged the truth of all I said, but notwithstanding, found herself unable to erase or smother the impression Captain Fawkner had made on her. The matter however ended on my resolution not to admit of his visits.

Being one day at Mr. Ridley's, the bookseller in St. James's-street, where Mrs. Baddeley purchased books, to the amount of fifty-six pounds; Lord Harrington, the father of the present Lord, who was then in the shop, begged he might be permitted to pay for them, and have the honour of presenting them to us. This we declined. He then requested

requested we would accept of a set of books of his own selection, and this was declined also. His Lordship seemed much hurt at our non-acceptance of the books, but more so, on being refused leave to pay us a visit in Grafton-street. He declared however, that he would take no denial, but would call on us the next day. On leaving the shop we stepped a few doors further up, to purchase some fruit; Mrs. Baddeley asked the price of a pine-apple; and being told a guinea, for the first time since I knew her, she declined to gratify her inclination at such an expence. But, the Duke of Ancaster being in the shop, afterwards purchased the pine, and sent

it home to her with a complimentary note, of which the following is a copy.

" The unexpected pleasure of seeing
" Mrs. Baddeley this morning, gives
" no time for imparting a matter of
" some consequence to her. The pine-
" apple will inform who writes this, and
" this evening he will call at nine, to
" communicate what it is to Mrs.
" Baddeley.

Thursday, twelve o'clock.

On leaving St. James's-street, we went for an airing into Hyde Park, where we were met by Lord Clanbrazil, who invited us to dine with him; we accepted his Lordship's invitation, and

hurrying

hurrying home to dress, found the above note from the Duke of Ancaster, and also the following from Mr. R. Conway.

"Mr. R. Conway's respectful compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and Mrs. Steele, and begs they would permit him to wait on them to tea this evening.

"*Thursday noon*".

We answered Mr. Conway's card, and told him we should be happy in his company at any future time, but must be excused the present, as we were going out on a prior engagement. We also left a message with the servant, to be

be delivered to a gentleman who was to call at nine o'clock. He was instructed to be very particular in informing him, that we dined out, and should with a party spend the evening at Vauxhall, and that it was out of Mrs. Baddeley's power to be at home agreeable to the appointment made, but that at any other time, she should be happy to receive his communications, relative to the matter contained in his message.

We arrived at Lord Clanbrazil's at four, and his Lordship handed us from our carriage, and conducted us upstairs, where to our great surprize, the first person who presented himself was Baddeley's once dear Gaby. This unexpected

expected rencontre shocked her for the moment, and it was noticed by the whole company. She turned quite pale, all her animation left her, and it was some seconds before she was able to sustain herself. He came up to her and me, and asked how we did, but his civility was returned by us with a marked coolness. When the company set down to dinner, he seated himself by Mrs. Baddeley, who instantly rose and removed her seat next to me. This was no small mortification to Mr. Hanger's pride. During dinner it was observable that neither he, nor Mrs. Baddeley eat any thing; and Lord Clanbrazil who was not only a man of gallantry, but a good-hearted man, used his utmost endeavours

deavours to bring about a reconciliation between them. These endeavours of his Lordship gave great pain to Mrs. Baddeley. So certain is the change from love to hatred, whenever the bond that unites two hearts is snapped asunder by any ingratitude or cruelty in the one, that a coalition with any other object is easier effected than a reunion of the former two.

Soon after dinner we attempted to withdraw, but Lord Clanbrazil requested we would not deprive him of the pleasure he proposed to himself for the evening, in our company, and to partake of which indeed he had invited these his friends ; and promised, on condition, we would stay,

stay, he would avoid introducing the same disagreeable topic again, which he observed made Mrs. Baddeley so unhappy. He then proposed a party to Vauxhall. Mrs. Baddeley wrote with a pencil and gave it to Lord Clanbrazil, that she should have no objection, if Mr. Hanger was not to be of the party; but if he was, she must beg leave to be excused. His Lordship said, he would take care that he should not.

It perhaps may not be unnecessary to say, that though Mrs. Baddeley's company was not coveted for her vocal abilities, yet it seldom if ever happened that she was in company with any of her friends, that they were not eager to hear
her

her sing; and her politeness and good-nature never refused it, when she was able to oblige them. In a room, her voice was melodious, and her taste was not exceeded by the first singer of the age. Mrs. Baddeley, when asked for a song, was always happy in the recollection of one which suited the occasion of the meeting, the conversation then on the carpet, or the conviviality of the parties: being asked for a song here, she began that of Sappho's ode.

Blest as the immortal gods is he,
The youth, who fondly fits by thee,
And hears, and sees thee all the while,
Gently talk and sweetly smile.

'Twas

'Twas this depriv'd my soul of rest,
And rais'd such tumults in my breast;
For whilst I gazed, in transport toss'd,
My voice was gone, my heart was lost.

The emotion with which she sung the line,

'Twas this depriv'd my soul of rest;
Struck every one present so forcibly
that their eyes were fixed on Mr.
Hanger. His face was in a blaze, he
did not seem to know whether he was
sitting in his chair or not, and was agi-
tated as if with conscious guilt.

After tea, we prepared for Vauxhall,
Mr. Hanger only excepted, who with-

drew much hurt and confused at the reception he met with. Lord Clanbrazil accompanied us in our carriage, and the rest of the company followed in their own. As soon as the performance at the garden was over, an elegant supper was prepared, the band of music was engaged to play during the repast, and the serenity and softness of the weather contributed not a little to the pleasures of the evening.

Next morning, whilst we were at breakfast, Lord Melbourne came in and we made him acquainted with our having taken Mrs. Abington's house at Hammersmith; and that our servants were now in it. He commended our expedition,

expedition, and hoped, (as he always did, when we informed him of any new step we had taken), that we had pleased ourselves. Desirous of seeing this new residence, he accompanied us there, and was highly delighted with the beauty, and elegance of the place, and wished us to reside there, on our return from Brighthelmstone, as much as possible.

The business his Lordship had to impart to us was, that he was to set out for Scarborough, on the Tuesday following; and therefore requested his dear love would let him know the amount of her debts, that he might discharge them before he went. She told him his great liberality to her, since she had the honour

of knowing him, put her above the necessity of running in debt, of course she had none to trouble him with. He then gave her five hundred pounds, and said, if she found herself in want of more before his return, to let him know it by a line to Scarborough, and he would instantly remit it.

At this visit Lord Melbourne was more explicit than he had ever been yet; and whilst I was treating with the ground-landlord for a piece of ground adjoining, in order to build a coach-house on; Lord Melbourne had put Baddeley into the highest spirits. She and his Lordship looked at each other, and laughed very heartily. "You" says

says Mrs. Baddeley to me, "I have just
made your agreement, and so have
I mine". And then they laughed
again. What occasioned this flow of
spirits, we must leave our readers to
conjecture.

Lord Melbourne now took his leave,
and Mr. Damer soon after made his ap-
pearance, and seeing Mrs. Baddeley in
unusual spirits, said, "What's come to
you to day? Tell us.—Let us laugh
with you." "No, no", says she, "it is
fun of my own making. It is in con-
sequence of a journey I took to day.
Mrs. Steele thinks she is not often de-
ceived, but I have deceived her to
day, as I have done before, and

"she is not pleased with it." Indeed she might truly say it, as it was the first time I had any suspicion of her having had any private connexion with Lord Mel bourne. This made Mr. Damer more inquisitive still, but he could obtain no explanation. He then wished he had been of the party : Mrs. Baddeley wished so too, and fell into another fit of laughter. He began then to think she was laughing at him, and asked if he had given any affront ; she said, no ; and a letter being at that instant brought in from Mr. Hanger, it put an end to her laughing. She read the letter, apologizing for the liberty, and when done, sent her compliments and said it required no answer.

Mr.

Mr. Hanger's letter was as follows :

" Dear Madam,

" I am distracted at your conduct to me yesterday, and miserable beyond description, to be at the same table and to have all the company's observations on my folly ; yet I cannot term it so, as it rises from my great affection for you. Dear Sophia, can you torture a man you once loved in preference to all the world ? I know I am despised by your friend, and of course she is my enemy ; I shall live to reward her with such thanks as may not please. Yet my dear Sophia, let me crave your pardon for all my cruel neglect of you, and

“ and take me to your heart: I will be
“ grateful, and it rests with you to make
“ me happy, or miserable. Send me
“ your answer, if I may be so blest as to
“ be permitted to call on you; when I
“ will attone for my past conduct, and
“ study to make you happy; am impa-
“ tient to hear from my dear Sophia.”

“ I remain, my dear Sophia,

“ Your constant, unalterable,

“ though unhappy lover.

J. Hanger.

Saturday; Sutton-street,

Piccadilly.

Mr. Damer pressing much to see Mr. Hanger's letter, after some little demur, his request was complied with, and he

was

was much diverted with it's contents. It occasioned a good deal of laughter between Mrs. Baddeley and him, and he exclaimed several times, " Poor Gaby, " is it at last come to this" !

It was an act of imprudence in Mrs. Baddeley, notwithstanding her anger, to shew Mr. Damer, Mr. Hanger's letter; but this imprudence was general with her, and was one of her usual weaknesses; she had unfortunately a babbling tongue and could keep nothing a secret; the private conversation of one, she would communicate to another; and though she felt not it's ill effects at present, it was in the end very injurious to her.

Mr.

Mr. Damer was very solicitous for leave to pay his visits more frequent; but was told, it was a matter he must not urge, as there were reasons to the contrary, which she could not at present acquaint him with.

The next morning a gentleman sent in his name and requested either to see Mrs. Baddeley or me. I received him, and begging to know his commands, was told, that he waited on us at the instance of his Grace of Ancaster, to tell Mrs. Baddeley, with his respectful compliments, that he had waited on her, agreeable to his promise in the note he sent; and not finding her at home, had left word he would call at some other time,

time; that his business now was to acquaint her, that with Mrs. Baddeley's permission, his Grace would do himself the honour of waiting on her on Sunday evening; and if it did not suit her to see him at her own house, he would give her the meeting at some little distance from town. I told him Mrs. Baddeley was at home; but so engaged, that I could not acquaint her with his Grace's message; and was she even at liberty, I could not think of doing it, as there were many reasons, why his visits could not be permitted. The gentleman replied, upon his honour, that his Grace was not coming as a suitor, but as a friend and well-wisher to Mrs. Baddeley, and, as a test of it, the Duke

begged

begged my acceptance of a trifle, which he had purposely brought. At this he took out of his pocket-book, notes, to the amount of upwards of two hundred pounds, and offered them to me, which I refused, with some degree of resentment, and told him "I was not to be bribed". He wished me not to consider the present in that light, but as an earnest of his Grace's friendship to Mrs. Baddeley, who lived in my house. I replied, "that if he did not drop the subject, I should immediately quit the room; and said, his Grace might spare himself the trouble of calling, for I should by no means admit of his visits at my house". The gentleman was rather displeased at this, and said,
that

that his Grace's intentions were honourable and did not merit such a return.

" In what respect", replied I, " can they be honourable ? Mrs. Baddeley's situation in life does not entitle her to receive such noble visitants, on *honourable* terms, and therefore they must be *dishonourable*; and I flatter myself, she is so circumstanced at present, as to enable her to act with more prudence, than to suffer such insults as his Grace's visits must amount to".

On this I rung the bell for my servant, to attend him to the door, and left him.

This person was no sooner gone, than Mrs. Baddeley came down stairs, eager to know the result of this visit, and on

my relating the whole, she hastily replied, "Why did not you take the "money and laugh at him? The Duke "could afford to pay for his imperti-
"nance, and had I been present I
"would have made him". When I related to her what I had said respecting her situation in life, not entitling her to the honour of visits from men of such rank, she was rather hurt, and would not admit there was any disgrace in receiving them; and thought he might have been permitted to have come. At this I replied with some warmth, "that her "visits and visitors had already caused "me a great deal of unhappiness and I "was determined, she should receive "no more of them under my roof:
"that

" that his offering me a bribe, was an
" insult of the highest degree, and that I
" was just on the eve of calling up my
" servant to turn him out of the house."

At this Mrs. Baddeley laughed, said she was only in joke, and begged I would not be angry. Lord Melbourne coming in at this juncture, put a stop to the conversation. He brought a pine-apple in his pocket, and said his dear Betsy, (meaning his lady) had sent it; which however he contradicted by a smile. His Lordship had no sooner left us, than Lord Sefton called, to whom we were denied, and he was immediately followed by Captain Fawkner. On the servant's saying Mrs. Baddeley was not

at home, she, seeing him from the window, called out "Yes I am".

Captain Fawkner flew instantly to the stairs, where I stopped his career by saying, "If you want Mrs. Baddeley sir, and she thinks proper to receive your visits, you must see her in the parlour". On which Mrs. Baddeley called out to him, "Mrs. Steele I find is out of humour, and I must wish you good morning; for I must not, nor will I, offend her". He was displeased at this, and said, "Let her be offended; only give me leave to say six words to you alone, and I'll be gone". However, she was prudent enough to say, she was too much engaged for the present,

present, hoped he would not take it amiss, and should be happy to see him at some other time. During this conversation on the stairs, Lord March, now Duke of Queensberry, was admitted, and saw Captain Fawkner, with whom, after his usual politeness to us, he entered into chat, and they were desired to walk into the parlour, accompanied by Mrs. Baddeley and me; and a harpsichord being in the room, at the joint request of the gentlemen, Mrs. Baddeley sung them a song.

In the interim came Mr. Robert Conway, and Mr. William Hanger, who were shewn into the drawing-room; and their names being sent in, his

Lordship and Mr. Fawkner took their leave. On our entering the drawing-room, Mr. Hanger told us his brother was ill, and asked, if we had not heard of it. Mrs. Baddeley replied, "I am
" sorry to learn he is not well, but wish
" never to hear his name mentioned in
" my presence". "What not your poor
" Gaby?" says, Mr. Hanger, who, by
the by, was not a little piqued and jealous at his brother's supplanting him.

It is somewhat singular that these brothers should all be running after the same woman. George, the third brother, like the other two, used every means in his power to gain Mrs. Baddeley's affections, but to no purpose. Mr. Conway
was

was on the same plan; but though an admirer of her person, he was always too much her friend to intrude upon her, and received a denial of his wishes, with that sensibility and calmness as did honour to his heart.

Lord Melbourne came now to take his leave, as he was going to Scarborough the next morning, for a second time within the month; and presented Mrs. Baddeley with four hundred pounds, saying, if she wanted more in his absence, on writing to him she should immediately have it. His Lordship must have loved her, for he always shed tears at parting with her. He ever called her his dearest love, and seldom left her, without

without blessing her sweet face: a hackney coach was now called, and he left us; for he never came in his own carriage.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



The following are a few of Lord Melbourne's letters. No. I. was sent to Mrs. Steele, the day after he fled out of the parlour window, in St. James's-place.

No. I.

" Dear Mrs. Steele,

" I am afraid you got your trimmings last night; send me word back
" if my dear creature will meet me
" in the same place in Westminster,
" Abby, to day at four o'clock.

" Otherwise

“ Otherwise I fear I shall not see her
“ to day. I have got her a Masque-
“ rade Ticket.

Your's,

“ Melbourne”.

“ To Mrs. Steele,
“ St. James's-place”.

No. II.

Richmond, Sept. 1, 1771.

“ My dear Love,

“ I hope you received my let-
“ ter from York; that it found you
“ quite well; I long much to see you,
“ and

“ and think it an age since I had that
“ happeyness ; I shall be able to return
“ in three weeks, and will immediately
“ be in London to see you. I wish I
“ should make it but 3 days ; but
“ you will, I hope be ashured that it
“ is not in my power to help it ; I long
“ to here from you, but I must pos-
“ pone that happeyness for fear your
“ letters should be seen. God bleſſ
“ you, and don’t lett this absence lessen
“ your love, for, my dear,

“ Your’s, &c.

“ Affectionately”,

“ Melbourne”.

“ P. S.

“ P. S. Ten thousand kisses I in-
“ close you. I have directed this to
“ Pimlico, as you may perhaps be re-
“ torned from Brighthelmston. I will
“ let you know soon exactly when I
“ can see you.

“ Adieu Love”

“ To Mrs. Baddeley,
“ Pimlico.

No. III.

“ My dearest Love,
“ This is the first moment I could
“ get to inform you, that I can't come
“ out

“ out of doors this day ; my eyes are
“ exceedingly inflamed. I am obliged
“ to keep them covered with parsley
“ and cream ; can scarcely look long
“ and nuff to write this.

“ Saturday.

“ To Mrs. Baddeley.”

No. IV.

“ My Love,

“ I am just returned to town,
“ and as I unexpectedly have found
“ the child much out of order, I am
“ obliged to stay at home till the

S

Dockter

“ Dockter comes, which may be late
“ first and therefore deprives me of the
“ pleasure of seeing you to night, but
“ I will call to morrow, at two o'clock.
“ I hope you are got quite well again,
“ you may be ashured nothing elce
“ should have hindered me the happey-
“ ness of seeing my love to night; in
“ the mean time I send you a thousand
“ kisses.

“ Yours,

“ Melbourne.

“ To Mrs. Baddeley.”

“ My

No. V.

" My dear Love,

" You can't conceive how
" unhappy I was, being disappointed
" of the happiness of seeing you, but
" I flatter myself you will be convinced
" that it was totally impossible for me,
" as I was obliged to go to the club
" with some ladies, who obliged me to
" play 'till after supper, when you
" know I could not be so happy to call
" on you on many accounts. My dear,
" I hope you will not be angry, as
" you know I have ever made a point

“ not to disappoint you, which nothing
“ that would hinder, should ever make
“ me do; and if you knew how happy
“ I am to see you, you will pity my
“ being so unfortunate as not to see
“ you half so much as I wish.—I am
“ just going into the country, shall re-
“ torn in the evening, and am obliged
“ to go with Lady Bellafyze, to Vaux-
“ hall; if, after your singing, you can
“ come there, it will give me pleasure
“ to see you. As I go to Bath on
“ Wednesday next, I beg to be so
“ happy as to see you at Pimlico to-
“ morrow at nine o'clock. My dear
“ love, think of me, and be sure that
“ any thing that hinders my seeing you,
“ will

" will ever give me pain. I send you
" ten thousand kisses.

" Melbourne."

To Mrs. Baddeley.

No. VI.

" My dear Love,
" I have just seen your picture
" at Reynold's, and think it will be
" well done. I send you a million of
" kisses, and long to see you, on which
" account I will stay as short a time as
" I can in the country. I hope to see
" you

“ you by Wednesday next. My life,
“ think of me ; remember I love you
“ Saturday, Sunday, and every day.

“ Yours ever,

“ Melbourne.”

To Mrs. Baddeley.

No. VII.

“ My Love,

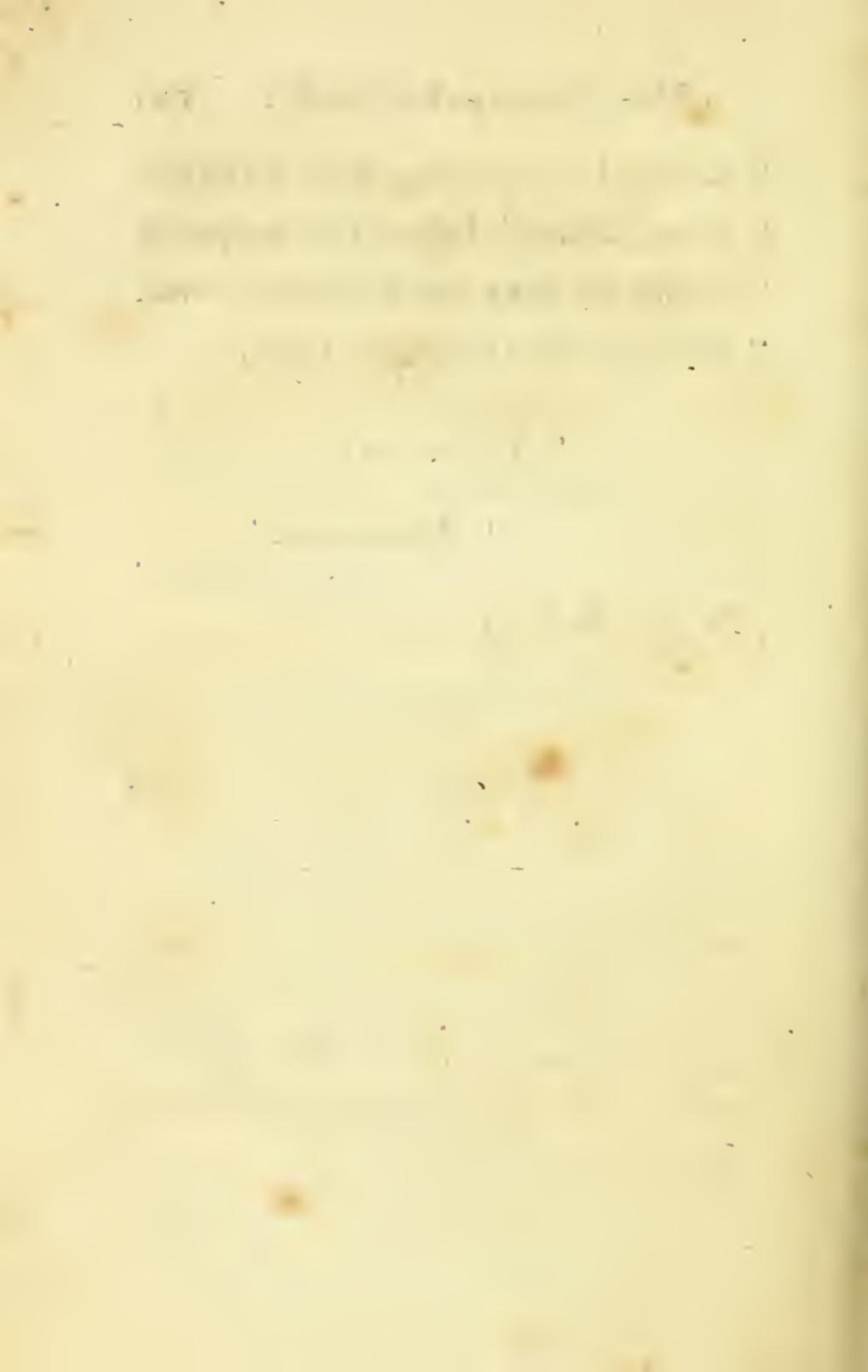
“ As there is no Rannela to day,
“ I will call on you to night at nine,
“ o'clock. You will I know excuse my
“ not calling now, as you know the
“ hazard

“ hazard I run in being seen in the day
“ time, otherwise I should be happey in
“ seeing my love every minnitt; with
“ sending you a thousand kisses,

“ Yours ever,

“ Melbourne.”

To Mrs. Baddeley.



THE
MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY
MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

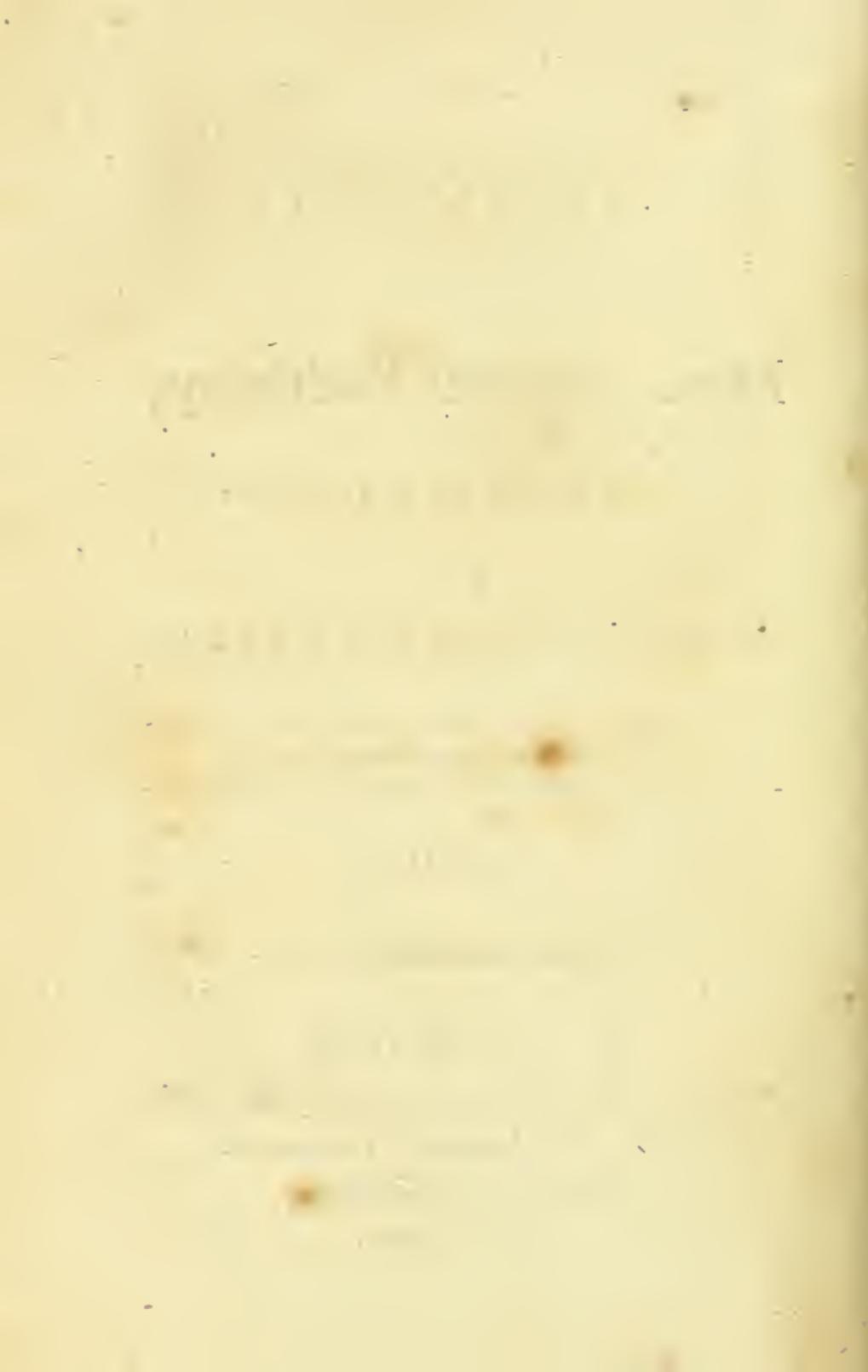
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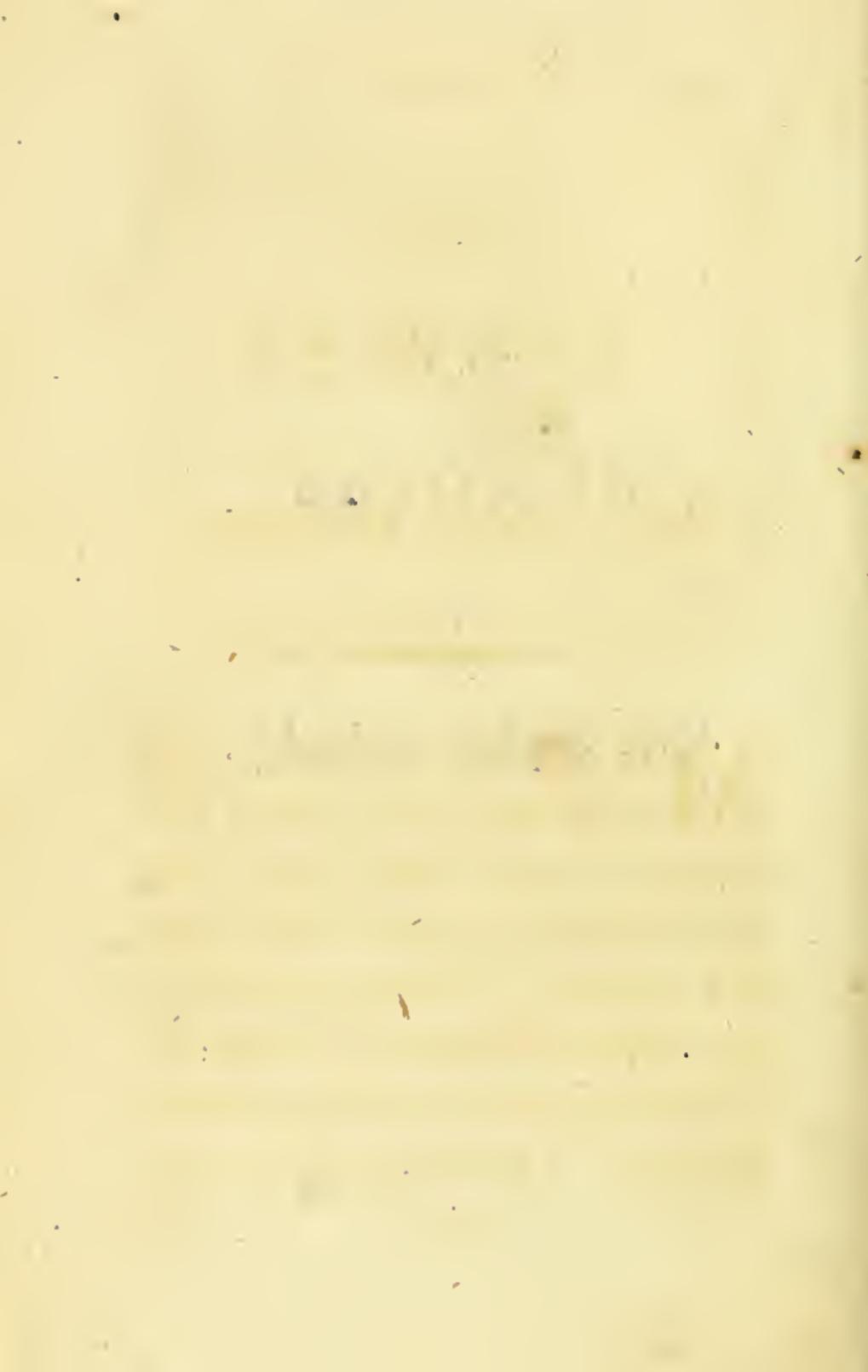
M.DCC.LXXXVII.



T H E
M E M O I R S

O F

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.



T H E
M E M O I R S
O F
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

MRS. Baddeley was now as happy as freedom from restraint could make her. She expressed much satisfaction at Lord Melbourne's leaving her, and began to devise how she should pass the remainder of the day; for the next, it was settled that we should go to Bright-helmstone. Lord Melbourne had scarce

left our house, before Mr. Damer came. He was happy, he said, to find his Lordship was gone, and begged leave to dine with us. We accordingly took him with us to Hammersmith, designing to return to dinner. In our way there, one of our horses jumped across the pole, and kicked in such a manner, that we were obliged to allight till they were unharnessed. We walked on, by the turnpike road, and were shortly overtaken by Sir Thomas Mills, who politely offered us the use of his carriage, as it would be some time before our own would come up. However, our own soon made its appearance, and we went on. On our return to town, we found

three

three letters on the table, one from Captain Fawkner, one from the Duke of Ancaster, and the third from Mr. King the silk-mercer, requesting the payment of one hundred and fifty pounds, which was immediately sent him. The Duke's letter was to invite himself to tea with us the Friday following, which Mrs. Baddely thus answered :

“ The honour your Grace intends
“ me on Friday evening, is indispens-
“ ably out of my power to accept of,
“ being under the necessity to set off for
“ Brighthelmstone to-morrow morning;
“ therefore, I take the liberty to send
“ this

“ this lime, to prevent your Grace the
“ trouble of being disappointed.

“ I remain with respect,

“ Your humble servant,

“ S. Baddeley.”

“ Grafton-street,
“ Wednesday night.”

Captain Fawkner's note was as follows:

“ Captain Fawkner presents his
“ compliments to Mrs. Baddeley,
“ enquires after her health, and re-
“ quests the honour of being permitted
“ to dine with her to-morrow, if disen-
“ gaged.”

To

To this Mrs. Baddeley wished to write word, that she should be happy to see him, and would have put off our journey to Brighthelmstone till the day following; for Captain Fawkner was a favourite: but on my telling her it was very improper to stay in town upon such an occasion, she, with some reluctance, sent him the following card.

“ Mrs. Baddeley’s most respectful
“ compliments wait Captain Fawkner,
“ to acquaint him she is obliged to go to
“ Brighthelmstone to-morrow, which
“ deprives her of the pleasure to see
“ Mr. Fawkner. On her return, she
“ will be happy to see him, whenever
“ it may be agreeable.”

At

At tea-time came Sir Thomas Mills, who was ushered up into the drawing-room. Mrs. Baddeley requested permission of Mr. Damer, to go and take her leave of him. She went up, and I made tea for Mr. Damer, who began to think Mrs. Baddeley staid too long above; I, thinking so too, begged leave I might go and fetch her down. On entering the room, I found Sir Thomas on his knee, entreating Mrs. Baddeley not to go to Brighthelmstone, declaring his love and esteem for her was so great, that it would be death to him to part with her, and a great deal to the like effect. On this, I addressed him with, " You know, Sir Thomas, we have company in the house, and it is rude
" of

"of Mrs. Baddeley to behave as she
does. I beg, therefore, she may
come down stairs immediately; and
as to our journey to Brighthelmstone,
as it cannot be dispensed with, I must
request you will say no more on that
subject." Mrs. Baddeley declared
she had told him the same, and after
some little altercation, she took leave,
and went down into the parlour. Mr.
Damer did not seem pleased with her
behaviour, but on her relating the
whole, he smiled, and it was forgotten,
and his kindness at this visit must not
be omitted. A jeweller had sent her a
pair of brilliant ear-rings to look at;
not ordered indeed by Mrs. Baddeley,
but with a view to tempt her to the

pur-

purchase: the value of them was two hundred and fifty pounds. These ear-rings lay in a box on the table, which Mr. Damer opened in our absence, and finding the price sent with the ear-rings, he, with great gallantry, put a draft into the box for the two hundred and fifty pounds, at sight, and gave the box to me, saying, "How careless you are to leave your jewels about in the manner you do!"—I put the box into my pocket, not knowing it's contents; but before he went away, he told me he had enclosed a draft in it for the value of the ear-rings, and requested, when he was gone, but not before, that I would present them to Mrs. Baddeley, in his name. At the close of the evening

ing Mr. Damer left us, saying, he would meet us at Brighthelmstone in the course of a fortnight.

- Having ordered our phaeton and four horses, with horses for two servants, to be at the door at four the next morning, we set off at five, ordering our coach to follow us. We breakfasted at Dorking, where we accidentally met with Sir Cecil Bishop, who was happy to meet us, and we breakfasted together. Sir Cecil was going to London, but said, he should be at his house at Storrington, in ten days, and politely gave us an invitation to pass a day or two with him.

On our arrival at Brighthelmstone, before we had been an hour in the house, we had several visitors, Mr. William Hanger, Lord Pigot, Captain Pigot, Lord Peterborough, and Captain Crawford. Lord Peterborough stayed tea, and Lord Pigot invited us to Rotten-dean the next day to dinner. We accepted the invitation, and went there on horse-back; Lord Melbourne having presented each of us with a horse, as I mentioned before, and which indeed was the only present I received from his Lordship, during his connexion with Mrs. Baddeley. Lord Pigot had provided some music, which played as we sat by the sea side, and it being a calm and fine evening, our enjoyment was beyond

beyond expression: I don't recollect having seen Mrs. Baddeley in better spirits, or more happy for many months. We walked upon the beach, as the music played, and Mrs. Baddeley entertained us with the song of "Water parted from the sea."

On our return to Brighthelmstone, about eight in the evening, our whole party walked upon the Steine, which was then full of company. Mrs. Baddeley there received the congratulations of many of the nobility on her arrival, and with all her weaknesses, it must be allowed, that she was not without a modest diffidence; to receive the most flattering compliments of so many men.

of rank and fashion, of all ages, without the least apparent degree of pride, elation, or affectation.

On our return home, for it must be remembered that we had a house upon the Steine, we found a letter from London, acquainting us that Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Baddeley's mother, lay dangerously ill, and wished to see her daughter. This took us to town the next morning early. We found Mrs. Snow very ill; her daughter ordered her a physician, and every requisite attendance, at her own expence; and after sitting up with her almost all the night, as we found her better next morning, we set off

off, at break of day, on our return to Brighthelmstone.

In our way back, we met with Mr. Vaughan, of Golden Grove, near Dorking, who gave us an invitation to his house, but which we chose to decline. Mrs. Baddeley had another opportunity, a little farther on the road, of gratifying her natural sensibility ; meeting with a company of seamen, seemingly distressed, she humanely enquired into the cause of it, and being told, they had lost their all, by being wrecked on the Sussex coast, she gave them five guineas, which the poor creatures received with such thankfulness and tears.

of joy, as must communicate a heart-felt satisfaction to a feeling mind.

On reaching Brighthelmstone, we dressed ourselves, and walked out upon the Steine, where we were accosted by Mr. John Hanger, who politely paid his respects to us; but Mrs. Baddeley not giving him an answer, he began to talk so loud, that I was fearful it would draw a crowd round us, for the Steine was covered with company. I requested he would leave us, but could not prevail; he appeared almost distracted, and said he should go mad, if Mrs. Baddeley did not speak to him. As everyone had their eyes on us, we thought it best to go home. He followed, and begged

begged admittance into the house, and indeed would take no denial. Mr. Hanger did not want for art, and he knew well the part he was playing. Mrs. Baddeley could never get rid of her attachment to him, and notwithstanding all I could say to the contrary, thought proper to seal his pardon; but I took care he should not stay at our house, and he being next morning obliged to set off for London, we got rid of him. Mrs. Baddeley long endeavoured to smother her affection for this faithless man, but to no purpose. Every time she saw him was a fresh mortification, and her respect and attention to me was the cause of many an unhappy hour. At this last interview,

he

he made use of a thousand protestations, that he would behave well to her for the future. With tears in her eyes she could not but forgive him, and when he was gone, said a great deal to me in his favour. I reasoned with her on the folly and impropriety of her conduct, in listening to a man who had so cruelly treated her; but I found, the more I said to her on the subject, the more she argued in extenuation of his faults. In short, though she was conscious he deserved her most inveterate hatred, yet such is the frailty of the female heart, that it soon forgets the injuries it receives from the object of its affection, and will almost forgive as soon as asked. On Mr. Hanger's leaving Bright-
helmstone,

helmstone, she became visibly unhappy, and a melancholy hung about her. Lord Pigot called on us the next day, whom she immediately informed of Mr. Hanger's having been with her: his Lordship said, he had heard of his behaviour on the Steine the night before, thought he must be mad, and hoped she would not countenance such a man, who, in the opinion of his friends, deserved no pity. She then related to Lord Pigot the many promises he had made, and the many oaths he had sworn to behave better in future; at which Lord Pigot said, he was a brute in nature, and for his cruel treatment of her, merited all her detestation. This language of Lord Pigot's did not please

please her; however, she thanked his Lordship for his good advice, and would endeavour to profit by it. After three hours conversation on this subject, he asked us how we were disposed; and on our saying we had some thoughts of taking a ride to Lewes, he replied, if we would take our coach, he would accompany us. Telling him our horses had not been long in the stable, and were not fit to go a journey of sixteen miles, his Lordship offered us the use of his. We profited by his politeness, went to Lewes, and in our way back, he took great pains to divert Mrs. Baddeley's thoughts, and keep up her spirits, which he in some measure effected,

fected, and she was the better for the ride, and his kind advice.

On our return, we found Mr. Damer had called, and left word he would call again in the evening. This being sooner by ten days than he promised, it was unexpected. At this visit, which he declared he had ridden day and night to pay, he proposed making a settlement of four hundred pounds a year on Mrs. Baddeley, with every comfort of life she could wish ; saying, indeed, in this case, he would not suffer the visits of Lord Melbourne, or any other man, on the score he was on, but that he had no wish to debar her from seeing her friends ; that as he could no longer withhold his love
for

for her, which he had often acquainted her with, and which she had as often rejected; he came now with a resolution to know her mind upon the subject; assuring her, that if she would throw herself under his care and protection, he would be her friend through life. To this she was silent. He pressed for an answer, but she gave him none; at last, on further importunity, she said,

“ Mr. Damer, I hold myself under the
“ greatest obligation to you for your
“ offer; but pardon me, in freely and
“ candidly expressing myself, and give
“ me a patient hearing.

“ After thanking you for your partiality to me, and for your liberal
“ proposal,

" proposal, I must tell you frankly my
" situation with Lord Melbourne. I
" have from him received such favours,
" and his love for me is so great, that
" he has a claim to my affections in
" return; but as there is a tye on his
" part, which should forbid the con-
" nexion, so is there on your's. Though
" shame should stop my utterance, I am
" honest enough to own my connexion
" with Lord Melbourne to you. Dif-
" fress led me to it first, and his Lord-
" ship's perseverance and generosity has
" continued me in it; so that I hold
" myself in part to be his. How un-
" grateful then must I be to such a
" benefactor, to listen to proposals from
" you or any other man. I do not
" withhold

“ withhold my compliance to your
“ request, from any dislike; for I shall
“ be happy in your acquaintance on the
“ score of friendship; but as a man of
“ honour you must expect no more.
“ My imprudence with Lord Melbourne
“ arose only from gratitude, and I
“ hold myself bound to keep my faith
“ with him, whilst he behaves well to
“ me. I beg, therefore, you will, from
“ this time, drop all thoughts of the
“ subject you are now upon, and I
“ shall esteem and value you; but, if
“ you persist in your pursuit, I must
“ decline your company; which, believe
“ me, would hurt me much.”

In this mode did she reason with him, and he was all attention; at last, he broke silence with "My dear Baddeley, " have you done?" She replied, "Yes." "Then," said he, "I love you, if possible, more than ever, for your noble and generous declaration; and though I feel myself mortifyed at the disappointment, I admire your conduct to Lord Melbourne, and have only to lament my unfortunate situation, and say, that you shall ever find me a true friend to you. Tho' you have repulsed my wishes, in which my happiness was centered, it is on such grounds that I must adore you; and be assured, from this moment, till I hear of your connexions with Lord

"Melbourne being over, I will never
"put the question to you again. Let
"me pay, therefore, my respects to
"you in friendship only, and you shall
"have no cause to complain." The
matter thus ended; he in a short time
took his leave, and set off for London.

This visit we had much to say on, and I can of a truth declare, that Mrs. Baddeley pleased me more by her conduct to Mr. Damer, than ever she had done before; for though she sacrificed to Lord Melbourne's wishes, it was owing to distress; which was not the case when Mr. Damer applied to her. Mrs. Baddeley assured me that what she said to him were the dictates of her heart; and

and that she now found herself more reconciled to her situation. "I will now," continued she, "tell you a secret of " Lord Pigot. The day we dined at " Rottendean; when we went into the " garden to gather some strawberries, " he made strong love to me; said he " was a single man, and that if I would " consent to come and live with him; " he would sue Mr. Baddeley to a di- " vorce, and marry me, and that prior " to this, he would grant me a settle- " ment of six hundred pounds a year. " He said all this with a serious face, " and gave me a month to consider of " it, expressly enjoining me not to drop " a word of it to you. I told his " Lordship that I certainly should not

"acquaint you with it, lest you should
entertain a bad opinion of him, for
that at present you had the highest.
"So, my dear," continued she, "you
see what mankind are!" This tale
not a little surprized me, as I conceiv'd
Lord Pigot's attention to Mrs. Baddeley
to spring from mere friendship. She
promised me, however, to give his
Lordship's application no countenance,
and begged I would not appear to
know it.

A few days after, there was an express brought from town, informing us, that Mrs. Snow was worse and begged to see us immediately. This alarmed Mrs. Baddeley exceedingly; indeed her duty

duty and attention to her parents, upon all occasions, deserve the highest commendations; her liberality to them was boundless, and she never heard of their distress, but she relieved them to the utmost of her power. After paying the messenger, who was sent post on the occasion, we dispatched him back to town, saying, we would be there almost as soon as he: we set off immediately, and found Mrs. Snow ill indeed, but very sensible and correct in a speech. She thought proper to make her daughter. Mrs. Snow was a tender mother, a sincere friend, and a religious good woman. After giving us an account of her illness, and how much she suffered by the same; she gave us to understand that

she

she approached very near the end of her days, and she thanked God she was perfectly resigned. " And now my dear " Mrs. Steele," says she, taking me by the hand as she lay in her bed, " let " me thank you for your kind attention " to me upon all occasions, and next, " for your friendship to my dear So- " phia," for so she called Mrs. Baddeley. Then turning to her daughter, she said, " O my dear child, remember the words " of a mother who dearly loves you, " and who feels more for you than my " poor heart can utter.—Be not offend- " ed, my dear Sophia, at the advice I " am going to give you. I too well " know, how in the early part of your " life, you was driven from the paths of
" virtue;

" virtue ; that may God forgive your
" cruel husband for, and may he pardon
" all you have done amiss !—But e'er
" it be too late, let me entreat you
" to leave off your little—*little* do I call
" them ? No, my Sophia, your great
" foibles.—You have merit, my dear,
" and talents to support you in an
" honest way ; shake off then your at-
" tachments from every man, more par-
" ticularly where a wife is in question.
" O, my Sophia, the tears I have shed
" for you in secret, are not to be num-
" bered.—A morsel of bread earned by
" honest industry, is more to be valued
" than all the splendor you possess."

Mrs. Baddeley was much affected, and
cried bitterly ; her mother often taking
her

her in her arms, and at times not able
to utter a word for tears. "Do, my
" Sophia," continued she, "repent,
" and follow the advice of your dying
" mother.—Pray to God to forgive you,
" as I do; and depend on it, if you ask
" for pardon sincerely, you will have it;
" for there is more joy in heaven over
" one sinner that repenteth, than over
" ninety and nine just persons that need
" no repentance. So, see, my dear
" child, what a merciful God we have!
" —Remember thy Creator in the
" days of thy youth, and to him lift
" up your prayers, and pray for grace
" to protect you from evil ways, that
" I may hear you promise me, and keep
" that promise, that you will in future
" mend

“ mend your life, and put your trust
“ in your heavenly Father; and know,
“ that it’s through our blessed Saviour,
“ Jesus Christ alone, that we can be
“ saved: and remember, there is no re-
“ pentance in the grave ;—it is then too
“ late !”—Here she stopped, and wept
exceedingly, as did every one present.

Mrs. Baddeley rose and fell upon her knees at the bed-side; first asked her mother’s blessing, which she had; then said, “ Dear, dear mother, I have paid
“ due attention to your tender advice,
“ and I will not omit to act as you wish
“ me, as far as lies in my power; I am
“ too sensible of my faults, but hope
“ the all-merciful God will forgive me,
“ which

" which I will pray for, and beg, dear
" mother, you will not grieve for me.
" I will remember at all times to fol-
" low your instructions ; it would have
" been happy for me, if I had ever done
" so ; but I hope it is not too late".

To these words of contrition, her mother replied, " Now, my dear child, you make me happy beyond expression, and I shall die in peace, whenever it shall please God to take me ; so pray rise and sit down by me." This scene was a very affecting one. Not a word more passed on this subject, on either side, except that Mrs. Baddeley took my hand, and said, " My dear mother, you may indeed thank Mrs. Steele,

" Steele, who has taken more pains to cure me of my follies, than any one besides." To this Mrs. Snow replied, turning to me, " God bless you for it!"

We then went for Doctor Eliot, (late Sir John); to attend her, who told me apart, he did not think her so bad, as she thought herself; but that as she was in a deep decline and dropsical, she could not live six months; however, he would do all in his power for her. Mrs. Baddeley desired him to attend her daily, and was very anxious to know from me, what the doctor thought of her; I told her in the softest manner I could, and she wept much. We stayed all this night with her, and in the morning took

our leave, Mrs. Baddeley giving her mother twenty pounds, and desiring her not to want for any thing, for when that was gone, she should have more, and every thing in her power to give her; and begged, if she found herself worse, to send for her express, and she would fly to her with the utmost speed possible. On quitting Mrs. Snow, we called in Grafton-street, and found a letter from Lord Melbourne, and then set off again for Brighthelmstone, without making any stay in town.

The following is a copy of Lord Melbourne's letter: it was written in answer to an application of Mrs. Baddeley, for eight hundred pounds,

to

to discharge an engagement she had entered into for her brother.

“ My dear Love,

“ I understand you at present
“ want the enclosed sum to assist your
“ brother with, which will be the last
“ inconveniencies you are to have for
“ his sake. I am very hartily glad of
“ it, because excuse me, as I have be-
“ fore told you, from your great good-
“ nature; and goodness of hart, you
“ have already been to good in fre-
“ quently distressing yourself upon this
“ account, and I hope you will be pru-
“ dent and nuf not to be perswaided to
“ engage yourself further for his depts.
“ I am very happey that I was informed

“ of it, because it always gives me the
“ greatest happeyness to oblige my love
“ with every thing in my power. I
“ hope you have got the horsis, or will
“ find one that will answar well, butt I
“ beg you will not be to venterfum as
“ there is bad horsis, butt gett one quite
“ quiet. I shall long to see your
“ dear face, which I will as soon as pos-
“ sible, and will endeavour to be back,
“ if only for a moment, in about a fort-
“ night. I will write to you from
“ York. Pray be carefull not to men-
“ tion my name at Brighthelmston, or
“ any where that whe may not be
“ plagued again by the ill-natured
“ world

" world. Ten thousand kisses for your
" dear face, and believe me Love.

" Yours, sincerely and affectionately"
" Melbourne".

" Pray destroy all my letters, least
" any one should see them by accident.
" Adieu my dear, I will find
" some way to hear from you.

" Thursday morning".

This letter is a literal copy of his Lordship's: his other letters were equally ill spelt, &c. but I have taken the liberty to correct them, that they may not hurt the eye of the reader.

In our way back to Brighthelmstone, Mrs. Baddeley dwelt much on her mother's advice, said, "she was happy in her youth, and had she power and opportunity to give advice to young minds, how would she warn them from acting as she had done! For though, says she, I was betrayed into shame, I have no plea on earth to follow it, having sufficient abilities, as both you and my mother tell me, to support myself, with perseverance, by my profession and my industry". Here I had a favourable opportunity of throwing in some of my advice, and the reader may believe me when I say, I did not miss it. Mrs. Baddeley then said, "Well, if you will consent

" consent to one thing I have to propose, I will upon my word give over every idle thought, and strive to convince you, by my future conduct, how much I think myself obliged to you, and I will attend to my engagements with Mr. Garrick, and at Ranelagh, as you wish me". "Well, what is it," says I, "that you wish for?" "Only," returns she, "to go to Paris, in order to see the country, the Theatres, the manner of the performers there, and the different fashions of the place, and if possible to bring over some few articles of dress, which cannot be procured here." I remonstrated against this, reminded her of her mother's illness, and reasoned with her

on

on the expence of the journey. "As to
the expence," says she, "that I do not
mind; I have set my heart so much
upon it, that I shall not be happy if I
don't go; we will only be gone ten
days." I did not know well how to
refuse her, and of course consented to
go with her, but gave her to understand
that we must have more money before
we could think of it, and that we would
endeavour to set off in a week's time,
"A week!" exclaimed she, "that's an
age! Why can't we go to-mor-
row?" I told her it was impossible,
as our cloaths were not prepared, and I
thought it necessary she should take her
diamonds with her: besides, it was pro-
per to know how her mother was, lest
she

she should die in her absence. We agreed at last to set off in a week. On our arrival at Brighton we found a letter from Lord Melbourne, written from York, of which the following is a copy.

“ York, Wednesday 20, 1771.

“ My dearest Love,

“ I intended to have had the
“ pleasure of writing to you Monday,
“ but ever too late for the post, and
“ I hope you have been very well since
“ I saw you in town, which I think is
“ an age since, but I will wish the time
“ to pass away quick, for the happiness
“ of seeing you, and if I can soon gett
“ an opportunity, you may be shure it
“ will

“ will give me the greatest happeyness.
“ Don’t think I love you less, because
“ I do not write you four sides of pa-
“ per, but be ashured of the love and
“ affection of, dear love,

“ Your’s,

“ Melbourne,”

“ P. S. I am going, for about a
“ week, into the county of Durham,
“ and shall then return to this part of
“ the countrey, and you shall here from
“ me, and how you can write to me, as
“ I am impatient to here you are well.
“ Ten thousand kisses for your dear
“ face. I am shure I need not tell you
“ to keep secret having heard from me.
“ Adieu.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley said she would write an answer to this letter, but not say a word of the Paris jaunt; in short, she was in such spirits about this journey, that she thought of nothing else, than what we should take with us; who we should intrust to fetch what we wanted from London, and what money I had at home. I told her, I should employ no one on the occasion, but go to town myself. We then agreed to set off for London in a day or two, and this would give her an opportunity of seeing her mother again.

Being rather fatigued with our journey, on our arrival at Brighthelmstone, we determined to be denied to every one

one that might call on us this night, and go to bed in time; but this we could not do, for Captain Crawford, seeing Mrs. Baddeley at the window, begged the favour to speak to her, and he would not trespass on her more than ten minutes. He was admitted, and his ten minutes were three hours. He acquainted us with the Duke of Cumberland's being down there, paying his addresses to the amiable widow Horton, (to whom he is since married), that it would be a match, and all the proceedings of his Highness; in short, he told us all the news of the place. He supped with us, and left us at eleven.

The

The morning being fine, we ordered our horses, and took a ride upon the Downs, where Mrs. Baddeley received the compliments of all the nobility who were there riding, but her mare throwing her (though she received no hurt) she determined never to ride her again. I offered her my horse, but she was not able to manage him; the consequence was, that we walked back to Brighton, and many gentlemen alighted from their horses and walked with us. On the Downs, we fell into conversation with Sir George Warren, whose lady at that time had left him, and was at Storrington with her father, Sir Cecil Bishop. He talked much of her, but

said nothing either in favour of her, or Sir Cecil.

In the evening we went to the sea side to one of the benches, to play a game of chess, of which Mrs. Baddeley was very fond, and where we thought we might amuse ourselves unnoticed, having a small chess-board in our pocket. Whilst we were at play, who should present himself, but Mr. Franco, the Jew merchant of Fenchurch-street, who was an old admirer of Mrs. Baddeley, and who unfortunately met once with some rough treatment from our servant, as I have mentioned before. This gentleman came rather suddenly upon us, with, " Ah, " Vat, have I caught you!" and Mrs.

Baddeley

Baddeley screaming, it so frightened him, that he reeled backwards, and being near the edge of the sea bank, down he went a considerable height. Mrs. Baddeley fell at this into such an immoderate fit of laughter, that she had not power to move from her seat; however, I went to see what was become of him, and found him crawling up the bank again. He told me he was very much hurt, but as I could not assist him, I made the best of my way after Mrs. Baddeley, who had returned homewards, laughing all the way at the little Jew's disaster. Indeed, though I was sorry for the accident, yet the ridiculous figure of the man, his fright and

confusion, altogether, was sufficient to make a Stoic laugh.

On Lord Pigot's calling, he was made acquainted with our intended journey to Paris, and that we meant to go in the packet, from this place to Dieppe. He seemed mortified at our going, but on a promise from Mrs. Baddeley to write to him, wished us a good journey, and a speedy return.

We now concluded on going for London, where we provided ourselves with every thing necessary, and took five hundred pounds for our tour. We called on Mrs. Snow, found her something better, but did not mention a word

a word of our journey. Mrs. Baddeley gave her mother twenty pounds more, and told her she hoped to see her again in fourteen days, as she was then going out of town. Notwithstanding we had so much property with us, we left town in the evening, and did not reach the Downs till it was quite dark. We then began to think of our danger ; but no accident happened, and we reached Brighthelmstone safe.

Mrs. Baddeley would not let me sleep all night ; she was eager to set off the next day at day-break, and would have hired a packet for the purpose. I could not conceive what all this eagerness proceeded from, but the reader will

know in the sequel. As she would not let me rest, I was under the necessity of agreeing to her plan. We hired a packet, and sailed the next morning, without taking leave of any one; and a dreadful passage we had. Such a storm arose, as I know not how to describe; we expected every moment to be at the bottom. However, after being forty-eight hours at sea, we arrived in sight of Dieppe; a boat was sent off to take us on shore, and though the captain told us, it was a dangerous attempt to risk ourselves in the boat, yet so anxious was I to get upon land, that I paid little regard to what he said. I was the first that got over the ship's side, and was no sooner in the boat, than she

struck

struck by the ways, and the whole head of the boat dashed to pieces in a minute. I fortunately got safe again on board, and we were obliged to stay some hours and weather out the storm, before we could be landed with safety. After such an escape, and so much frightened, the reader will, I doubt not, rejoice with me, on our being safe ashore. It is not in the power of words to express my joy on the occasion.

Unacquainted with travelling in France, we were obliged to submit to our landlord's disposal of us; he procured a chaise and four, as he called it, and off we set for Paris, travelling night and day, fearless of danger, and regard-

less

less of the many robbers we were told we might meet with, who generally attacked travellers in bodies, twenty in number, and that they seldom robbed, but they murdered. I was not for travelling in such hafte and danger, but nothing could prevail on Mrs. Baddeley to the contrary, though of the two, she was the most timid. In short, we travelled at such a rate, as if we were flying for our lives; the horses galloped all the way; no money was spared to encourage the drivers; where money could not tempt them, our servants obliged them to go on by threats. This a modern traveller will, perhaps call, seeing and reconnoitering the country. In a word, the pace we went, and the roughness,

roughness of the roads, which there are paved, so shook me, that I was as fore, as if I had been beaten. Mrs. Baddeley did not complain, though I have reason to think she was as sick of the journey as myself.

When we got to Paris it was dark; but we found our way to the Hotel, where the King of Denmark lodged, when in that city. We were too much shaken to think of any thing but bed; we met with a good one, and slept soundly the next day till eleven. Whilst we were at breakfast, Mrs. Baddeley desired to speak with the master of the house, and in a room apart from me; I wondered at this, and so will the reader till

till he is told, she was enquiring for her Gaby, whom she, unknown to me, had promised at their last interview at Bright-helmstone, to meet at this house: but how was she mortified, when the man told her the gentleman was gone for England; and left Paris yesterday.—

“ O God,” she exclaimed, “ can this be true ?” “Indeed, Madam,” returned he, “ Sir John Blaquiere informed me so, he saw him get into his chaise for Calais.” When I heard this, I was so enraged with her, that I could scarcely contain myself. She then opened the whole mystery, said, Mr. Hanger had been waiting for her at Paris, almost ever since she last saw him. “ For shame, Sophy” says I, “ never name “ it,

" it ; had I known it, you should never
" have brought me here." " Well,"
said she, " my dear, don't be unhappy,
" I am at your service, and will return
" with you immediately." " In pur-
" suit," says I, " I suppose, of this vile
" man?"—But we were soon put off
from this, on being told we could not
leave Paris without a passport, which
was to be shewn at the gates, and that
we could not obtain one, 'till the King's
return from Compeigne, where he now
was, and which might not be for a
month or two to come. This was no
little embarrassment to Mrs. Baddeley,
and though I was sorry at the thought of
being so long detained, I was happy she
had it not in her power to follow

Mr.

Mr. Hanger; I talked to her roundly upon this occasion and made her so heartily ashamed of her coming after him, that whatever might have been her inclination, she wished never to be upbraided with her folly, and often acknowledged it was wicked to act as she had done.

The next day she was quite easy about him, and we then came to a determination to see what was to be seen, visit the different manufactories, and partake of all the amusements of the place. Accordingly we hired an elegant carriage for the time we meant to stay, and a french woman and man servant; our own not knowing a word of the language. In the evening, we went to the

French

French Comedie, where Sir John Bla-
quiere, to whom we had the honour of
being known, came and paid his re-
spects to us. This was a favourable
opportunity for Mrs. Baddeley to learn
something of Mr. Hanger; from Sir
John she learnt, that he had been in
the greatest expectation of seeing her
at Paris, for some days; that he had ex-
pressed much uneasiness on the subject,
and that he was returned to Brighthelm-
stone in pursuit of her. On her telling
Sir John, that she could not leave Paris
for want of a pasport, which she knew
not how to apply for; he said, he was
secretary to Lord Harcourt, and would
apply to his Majesty for one, but that
as the King was then at Compeigne,

it would be a fortnight at sooneft, before he should be able to obtain it; and that no other person than he, or the Ambassador, could procure it so soon. Sir John spent the evening with us and the next morning called and breakfaſted, and ſaid, if agreeable, he would accompany us that evening to the Colleſé, a place of entertainment, ſomething like our Vauxhall. We accepted of his civility, and as ſoon as he left us, ordered four horses to our carriage, and went to view the palace, at Verſailles, and returned to Paris highly delighted with what we had ſeen, both there and on the road.

In the evening Sir John attended us to the Colliseé. On entering a large room there, we were agreeably struck with a fine band of music, and in the gardens adjoining was a large piece of water, in which were displayed the most brilliant fire-works, I ever beheld. Mrs. Baddeley being taken ill with a bad head-ach, we were obliged to return home, before the entertainments were over. On our passing the great room to go to our carriage, we met with Mrs. Abington of Drury-lane Theatre, and not knowing she was at Paris, the unexpected pleasure was great on both sides; friendly invitations took place mutually, and we took leave of her and Sir John, and made the best of our

way to our hotel. After taking some strong coffee, Mrs. Baddeley found herself better, and desired the best shoemaker in Paris might be sent for, to measure her for some shoes. In less than half an hour, a genteel man in a black silk suit of cloaths, with a *chapeau bras* under his arm, his hair exceedingly well dressed and a sword by his side, was shewn up to our room: on his entrance, we both rose from our seats, conceiving it to be some gentleman; but on being given to understand, that this man of the French Ton, was no other than the shoe-maker, it was with difficulty we could refrain from laughing, at the contrast between this man and a shoe-maker in England, and more so when

when he called in his servant, who attended with a bag of beautiful silk shapes, and some shoes, as a specimen of his workmanship. They being at a much less price than we could get them in London, we ordered twenty-four pairs to be made, with the utmost expedition.

The next day, we went to view a china manufactory, at some little distance from Paris; but before we set out, we received a polite note from Mrs. Abington to enquire how we were, and another from Sir John Blaquiere. At this manufactory, is a very extensive long room, full, from one end to the other, of the most superb china, in glass cases,

cases, that ever was seen. Having feasted our eyes with this beautiful collection, (for we purchased nothing) we set off on our return; but stopping at an inn, in order to dine, - an incident happened that highly diverted us. Two girls waited at table; one was about seventeen years of age, the other nineteen, daughters of the mistress of the house, who was a widow. Mrs. Baddeley being this day in high spirits, joked with the girls about sweethearts, and asked if either of them were going to be married. One of them said, "I shall soon," the other, the youngest, made no answer; but stood silent, with her eyes fixed on me. In short, from the time I came into the house,

house, she had ey'd me in so particular a manner, as to be noticed by Mrs. Baddeley. This girl enquired of our servant, who we were, and whether I was not a gentleman in disguise, for we were dressed in riding-habits. Our men laughed at the conceit, and giving no answer, this simple girl concluded her suggestions to be right, and one of the men coming in and telling us the circumstance ; Mrs. Baddeley favoured the supposition, and on the girl's coming again into the room, said, “ if you are “ not engaged, this friend of mine, who “ has dressed himself like a woman, is so “ much in love with you, that I don’t “ know what will be the consequence.” The girl simply replied, that ’till this day,

day, she had never seen a person she could make choice of; and on being asked whether the gentleman was an Englishman, or Frenchman, she answered an Englishman. "Oh! my dear," says Mrs. Baddeley to her, "I fear you have made a bad choice, for all English gentlemen are false; except you, sir," turning to me. This was sufficient; the girl coloured and smiled, and began without hesitation to compliment me. I told her I was a woman, but it had no effect. Mrs. Baddeley declared otherwise, (and the foolish girl believed her) and kept the joke up so long, that it was too late to think of returning to Paris that night, so we concluded with staying where we were. When I retired to a chamber,

a chamber, this girl attended me, and in a very plain, but awkward manner, declared, how much she loved me ; said I might think little of her for her declaration, but she was not able to conceal her passion ; that she would never leave me, but follow me to the world's end. All I could say to her was to no purpose. Mrs. Baddeley came into the room soon after, and declared, that if I would not take her under my protection, she would under her's ; that the girl should not be made unhappy, and should absolutely go with us. The mother came in and enquired into this affair, and was at last of the same opinion with her daughter, and declared, she did not in the least disapprove of her daughter's

ter's choice. I never was more embarrassed in my life. Mrs. Baddeley telling the mother I was a young gentleman, whom my father would have forced into a marriage disagreeable to me; and that I had run away in consequence of it, and had put on this disguise to prevent discovery. Though I averred it was all a joke; to see the attention of the mother and daughter to all Mrs. Baddeley said, and the poor girl's wifful look at me, I could not help laughing. The mother told me the girl had a pretty fortune, was a good girl, and would be a wife fit for any man. At this I smiled, and attempting to leave the room, the girl started, took me round the neck, and fell a kissing me with

with such ardor, that for some time I could not get from her. Mrs. Baddeley laughed so heartily, that she could scarce keep her seat, and the girl began to cry. On my striving to get from her, she complained of my cruelty, and said I had not given her even so much as one kiss. In short, Mrs. Baddeley so encouraged her, that I was distressed beyond measure. This lasted till one o'clock in the morning, and I was forced to say I would go to bed, in order to get rid of her. Mrs. Baddeley, to keep up the farce, ordered, in her hearing, a room with two beds, though we never slept together on the road. This was a farther confirmation of what the poor silly girl wished; and of course my troubles did

did not end here. Having seen our room, and chosen our beds, we gave directions for their arrangement, and when we retired to rest, I was so jaded with this girl, that I was scarce able to undress myself; Baddeley laughing at me the whole time. I made shift however to get into bed, and to my great astonishment, was laid hold of in the bed by this girl, who had secreted herself there. I began now to lose all temper, told her she was an impudent hussy, and if she did not that minute get out of bed, and leave the room, I would call the servants to take her out. Mrs. Baddeley had now some pity on me, and thought it was time to undeceive the girl, by declaring, she had only been

been joking, in saying I was a gentleman, for that in fact I was a lady, and begged of her to go away; it was a long time before she would believe her, and not before I had half dressed myself again, and threatened to call her mother, and the servants. She clung about me, cried much and said she should not live, if I turned her out of the room, and a great deal of nonsense to the like effect. In short, Mrs. Baddeley was herself sufficiently punished for her joke, it being three in the morning before we could get rid of her.—So much for french delicacy.

When we rose, the mother came to us, said she was very unhappy on ac-

count of her daughter, who had taken such a liking to me, that she did not know what would be the consequence. We both declared, that what was said respecting my being a gentleman, was merely a joke, were sorry it had gone so far, and that if she disbelieved us, there were persons in Paris who would convince her of it. The mother would not believe us any more than the daughter, and no other way had we to get from the house, than by a promise to return in two days. I had a beautiful whip which cost me two guineas and a half; the girl got hold of it, and said, I should not have it till I returned. After paying our bill, saying some civil things to the mother and daughter, and

leaving

leaving my whip in the girl's possession, which I was glad to do in order to get away quietly, we were permitted to go on to Paris.

In the evening, we went to the Italian comedie, where we were much entertained, and where Mrs. Baddeley attracted the notice of many Gentlemen. After the opera, on our return home, we found Mrs. Abington, whom we were happy to see. She told us, if we wanted to purchase fashionable articles in millinery, and trimmings for the stage, where we might get them, and made us acquainted with every place worth seeing at Paris. She next informed us that she was going to England in a few days,

and if we had any commands she should be happy to oblige us. Her politeness on this and every other occasion, need not be told to those who are happy in her acquaintance ; she left us, saying, she would call on us again before she quitted Paris.

The next morning we went a shopping, agreeable to the directions we had received the night before, and bought a variety of caps, handkerchiefs, ruffles, aprons, trimmings, &c. to a considerable amount. At Le Duc's, the King's taylor, Mrs. Baddeley purchased a trimming for a sack and coat, consisting of silver embroidery, with flowers, and the richest work that could be put in it ; this cost

cost her fifty pounds, besides more money to have it further enriched with silver tassels, which were then worn. We next went round the *Bijoux* shops, where jewels and trinkets of all kinds are sold. She there purchased two watches, and trinkets of several kinds, with pocket-books and sundry other articles. After this some fans were produced, of these she bought several, some for the stage, and others for her private use, too expensive to name. She also purchased two dozen of silk stockings, twelve dozen pair of kid gloves, and a quantity of fine cambrick, lawn, and lace. On our return home, it was sufficient amusement to look over our purchases,

and pack them properly up for their conveyance to England.

The day following we took a journey to see a fine piece of machinery, erected to convey water to a considerable distance, without the help of fire, which took us two hours to examine. In the evening, we were at the French comedie, where we met with Sir John Blaquiere again, who, with his usual politeness, addressed us, and said, he should be able to procure us our passport in six days. Mrs. Baddeley so attracted the attention of the French nobility, that when the play was over, numbers of them crowded the passage to see her pass. Sir John Blaquiere handed her to

to her carriage, and Sir Francis Dashwood did me the honour to do the same. Many were the enquiries respecting us, but no information could be had, our servants having orders on no account to say who we were. Enquiries were also made at the hotel, but all to no purpose; and many compliments from persons unknown were also sent to us, but to which no answer was returned. We made ourselves happy in taking all the pleasure the place could afford, without mixing with any of the people. We saw every thing worth notice, within fifty miles of Paris, and was present at every amusement in the place. Mrs. Abington came to take her leave of us, and we should have been happy to have

accom-

accompanied her to England, but that was impossible, not having our passport. At last Sir John Blaquiere brought it, and asked us, if he could be of any further service to us; or, if we were in want of cash, he would be proud to accommodate us. We told him, we had come sufficiently prepared in that respect, and had only to thank him for his kindness and polite attention to us.

So anxious was Mrs. Baddeley to return to England, that she determined to set off that afternoon; accordingly, having discharged every demand upon us, we hired a chaise to carry us to Calais, and left Paris at four o'clock, determining to travel night and day till we got

got there; which we did, though a good deal intimidated by the inn-keepers, who would fain have induced us to stay at their houses, from an apprehension they alarmed us with, of robbers on the way. We were two nights upon the road, and at one house where we stopped at midnight, the master, having by mistake taken four livres too little, he dispatched two horsemen after us, who alarmed us exceedingly, for they overtook us about three miles from the inn, crying out, stop, stop; we ordered the drivers to mend their pace, and finding they pursued us, and conceiving them to be robbers, we ordered our men to take out the pistols, and give us one each, for as there were but two riding after

after us, and we were six in number, we were resolute enough to determine not to be plundered. We were at last overtaken, and it being a minute before they spoke, I told them, if they did not immediately say what they wanted, I would fire at them. At this they seemed more alarmed than ourselves, and told us that the Maitre d' Hotel had charged us four livres too little in the account; which we accordingly paid them, with something for themselves, and were happy the business turned out no worse. This alarm over, we reached Calais without any fresh one.—After taking some refreshment, finding the wind favourable, we hired a packet, and determined to pursue our way to England

land immediately. We attended the officers who were to search our baggage, and a fee of five guineas saved us much trouble; the man to whom we presented it, gave us a note to a person at Dover, who would not on the receipt of it, he said, suffer any thing to be taken from us. The gentlemen of the army, of which there were many on the quay at Calais, were so struck with Mrs. Baddeley, that a crowd of them escorted us to the packet, and very politely handed us in. On leaving the harbour, we were a little alarmed at the vessel striking on the bar, but no accident happened, and we reached Dover after a pleasant voyage of three hours. When we were landed, we had recourse to the person to whom

our

our letter was addressed, which we gave him, accompanied with a *douceur* of six guineas, which he took, and assured us every thing should be safe. Our trunks were taken to the Custom-house, but returned to us undisturbed, as they received them. We had now been up two nights, and were very much fatigued, but as we found our servants able to pursue their journey, we determined to make the best of our way to Bright-helmstone. We reached Tunbridge at ten the same night, and the next day, desirous of seeing the place before we left it, we walked round to the shops, in one of which we saw Miss Blace of St. James's-street, Mrs. Baddeley's milliner,

liner. She told us she had seen Mrs. Abington, from whom she learned we were at Paris, and presumed we had brought over the most fashionable parts of the female drefs. On our saying we had, she asked to be indulged with a sight of them. To gratify her, we ordered our boxes and trunks to be fetched, and shewed her what we had purchased; and it proved a very unfortunate circumstance for us, for we were noticed by some custom-house officers, who thought proper to seize our boxes and trunks, and all their contents, wearing apparel and all: they would not leave us a single article, saying, that as our cloaths were found in bad company, they must share the same fate; so

that we lost the whole of our baggage, and I am sorry to say, Miss Brace sustained a loss also; for her house was searched on this occasion, and having some lace to make up, the whole was taken from her, to the amount of two hundred pounds. The only articles Mrs. Baddeley preserved, were her diamonds, which she had secreted, for fear of robbers on the road. The men had a good booty in this seizure, for we dared not apply for our cloaths, lest we should be called upon for the penalty, which they threatened us with levying. I was very unhappy at this accident, but Mrs. Baddeley met it with great unconcern, her only distress being the loss of the fashions. We then set off from

from Tunbridge much lighter than we came, and reached Brighthelmstone at four in the morning.

The reader will naturally determine with us, that we made a very foolish journey of this, a great deal of trouble, a great deal of fatigue, and a great deal of money spent to very little purpose; for we brought very little of the five hundred pounds back, which we took with us. We had seen Paris 'tis true, but that was all, and a dear sight it was. Under an idea of furnishing ourselves with things at a cheap rate, we lost every article we bought.

On knocking our servants up, we were told Mr. Hanger was there, and had been in the house a fortnight. He came down and welcomed us home, but received no answer from me. I ordered a fire in my chamber, took Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, and begged she would go up with me; she did, and we went to bed, tired and jaded enough; for we had never stopped on the road from Paris to Brighthelmstone, except the night we lay at Tunbridge, but to take some little refreshment for about a quarter of an hour, sometimes where we changed horses. Mrs. Baddeley did not say a great deal to Mr. Hanger, who ran on in his usual foolish style; and when we were in bed, I represented

to

to her the impudence and effrontery of his conduct, in coming into our house in our absence; said it would draw on her the censure of her friends, and told her, if she did not tell him to leave the house, as soon as she was up, or suffer me to do it, I would absolutely leave her, and go to town that day; she promised she would, and declared it was unknown to her that he was there, for he had no leave from her. We did not rise till near two o'clock, when we found a packet of letters from Lord Melbourne and others. Breakfast was ordered in the dining-room, when Gaby made his appearance, biting his nails, and hanging down his head like a great school-boy. Mrs. Baddeley addressed

him in a very spirited manner. "I am
surprized," says she, "Mr. Hanger,
at your conduct in coming to this
house, as if it was your own. On
what authority have you presumed to
take this liberty? Not from any I
ever gave you; and I must, and do
insist upon it, that you immediately
leave it. I have been by you, Sir,
made the ridicule of all my friends,
and much more so of Mrs. Steele, my
best friend and benefactor, whom I
have faithfully promised never to
speak to you any more. What will
Lord Melbourne say, when he hears
of it?" Hanger gave her no answer,
on which she told him, he must
either quit the house or she would.

He begged

begged to be permitted to say a few words to her alone, and, I rising from my seat, but with no intent to leave the room, Mrs. Baddeley declared she would have no private conversation with him, and requested me not to leave her, for she was exasperated at his conduct beyond measure. "If you have any thing to say, Sir," says she, "say it instantly, for I am determined not to continue with you." At this, he with a pretended affectation, took out his handkerchief to wipe his eyes, and said he could not express his sorrow at her treatment of him, which he did not expect, after what had passed, before she went to France. This she told him, should be explained, that he should not insinuate

insinuate things of her, which were untrue ; that she would keep his secrets no longer, and would acquaint Mrs. Steele with every thing that passed. " Did you not threaten," says she, " on your knees, that you would instantly put an end to your life, with a large knife, which you had then in your hand, if I did not promise to continue with you ? Did you not say, that you was a distracted man, and had no peace night nor day ; that you wished some friend would put a period to your existence ; that you could not live without me, and much more to the same purpose ? This language, the knife, and the fright you put me in, so alarmed me, that I would have

pro-

“ promised any thing: I then foolishly
“ told you I would occasionally see
“ you, though I never designed it; and
“ you made me swear I would go to
“ Paris to meet you, which to get rid
“ of you, I *did* swear, though I now
“ repent it. To keep my oath I went,
“ but not to gratify any wishes of
“ your's. I promised myself much
“ pleasure in going there, as my design
“ was to retaliate for all your past
“ treatment, and leave you as you did
“ me, when you was sensible of the dis-
“ tress of my mind on your account.
“ My intent was to mortify you, and I
“ will honestly confess I was hurt be-
“ yond measure to find you gone. I
“ kept this a secret, for had my friend,

Mrs.

“ Mrs. Steele known I went to give you
“ the meeting, I might have gone by
“ myself. Don’t persuade yourself that
“ any regard for you took me there;
“ a wish to see the country, and an op-
“ portunity of revenging myself were
“ my sole motives.”

During all this he sat biting his nails,
and hanging down his head as before;
on which Mrs. Baddeley turned to me,
saying, “ My dear shall we go up and
“ dress?” We accordingly left him, with-
out a word, to his private thoughts,
and when we were in our chamber, Mrs.
Baddeley said, “ I am now more happy
“ than I can express myself. I have
“ given Mr. Gaby his own.—Did I
“ speak

" speak to him properly?" I told her
" very properly, and in the manner he
" deserved, and after this declaration of
" your's, if he does not leave the house,
" I shall talk to him in a manner he
" will not like." Presently, we heard
the door shut with great fury, and on
enquiring who made that noise below,
was told, it was Mr. Hanger, who was
gone out and pulled the door after him
with violence. He went and took lodg-
ings, and soon after sent for such things
as he had brought into our house with
him, which we chearfully sent him. A
note was presently after brought, with
his compliments to Mrs. Baddeley beg-
ging the permission of one hour's con-
versation with her, on the subject of that
morning.

morning. Her answer was, that she had an engagement which put it out of our power to receive his visit at all. This mortified his pride so much, that he wrote her a letter, containing the dictates of a madman, more than any thing else. Mrs. Baddeley sealed it up in a piece of blank paper, and sent it back to him. On the receipt of it from our servant, he opened it, and when he saw nothing but his own letter, he threw it into the fire, and swore, and said, "Very well sir." We now began to read our letters. There was one to Mrs. Baddeley from her mother, saying, she was better; and one from Lord Melbourne.

The next day a hair-dresser was sent for, to cut our hair; the fellow prevailed on Mrs. Baddeley, who had beautiful hair, to have it cut close to her head, upon the crown, and have that part of her head shaved; under a notion that it would grow as thick again; and the hair-dresser saying he could make her a braid, that no one would know it was cut off, she consented to let the fellow cut it clean away, as he proposed. The hair he left, he put up in papers, and said he had a braid at home, exactly of her colour, the price of which was five guineas; he fetched it, taking Mrs. Baddeley's long hair with him, which I suppose he made into a braid, and sold for five guineas more. On his return

he dressed her, and would have perswaded me to have had mine cut in the same way, but I would not consent. I mention this circumstance, to prevent my fair readers from ever being imposed upon in a similiar way; for Mrs. Baddeley's hair, to the day of her death, was never half so good as before it was cut.

Lord Pigot breakfasted with us, and told us that Mr. Hanger's behaviour was the topic of conversation, through all Brighthelmstone, and that he was sorry to tell Mrs. Baddeley, she had been blamed in his hearing. He said Mr. Hanger boasted that she followed him to France; for that, poor thing, she could

could not forget her old partiality for him ; that he was sorry he had missed her, but that, on her return, he should live with her as before ; in consequence of which, he had taken possession of her house ; and should make life as easy to him as he could. “ Your friends” continued he, “ though they blame you for “ your folly in submitting, can’t help “ pitying you.” Mrs. Baddeley begged his Lordship would permit her to justify herself to him, and the rest of her friends, and related all that the reader has been made acquainted with, which on a candid hearing, Lord Pigot was pleased to say, was commendable.

On his Lordship's leaving us, we went to Storrington, to pay a visit to Sir Cecil Bishop; found him at home, and dined with him. On our return, we learned Mr. Hanger had called and left his compliments.

We began now to think of going to London, and fixed on the next day for that purpose. In our way there, we were struck, as we passed a common, with the neatness of a cottage, by a wood side, and stopping to look at it, three pretty children presented themselves to our view. We got out, made an apology for going in, and saw an old woman in the corner, whom we found to be their grandmother. They seemed

very

very poor, but every thing was uncommonly neat and clean. On asking for the mother of the children, we were told, she was in bed above and had just lain in; we desired to see her, and was shewed up into a decent chamber, where lay a very pretty woman, and her young child. She asked us if we would accept of a glass of wine and a piece of cake. We sat down, entered into conversation with the mother, who we found had lain in three days, and as the child had not been christened, begged we might be sponsors for it, and that the infant, being a girl, might be called Sophia Elizabeth. We gave the poor woman a guinea each, and took leave of her; promising to call again, when we came next that

way. She received our present with tears of gratitude, which amply repaid us for what we bestowed upon her.

Whilst we were looking out of the window, at the inn where we stopped to dine, we saw four men, who were deserters, hand-cuffed and at that time conducting to their regiment; we desired them to stop, gave them and their guards something to drink, and Mrs. Baddeley gave each of the prisoners five shillings. Good offices, they say, seldom remain ungratified; therefore Mrs. Baddeley experienced a self-gratification, I cannot take upon me to say, but as she could

could have no other motive in her benevolent acts, they must have proceeded from an innate sensibility and feeling for the distresses of others; which to a benevolent mind, is amply repaid by the gratitude of the receiver.

On our arrival in Grafton-street, we found several notes; among these one from Captain Fawkner, to Mrs. Baddeley, saying he was at Richmond upon duty, and should be happy to see her, if some good performers then at the Theatre would be any temptation to draw her there. She took no notice of the invitation, at this time, but did not forget it.

We

We were now at home, after a ramble of some time, and spent our evening together, talking over the occurrences of the last month, with a placid satisfaction, that no place, but home with quiet, affords. Home however, was at present something new to us, and we determined to spend a week here, with our birds and our cats, for no one knew of our being in town. Mrs. Baddeley was very fond of cats, and had one Grimal-kin, which she called Cuddle ; and which she would often take long journeys with her. And this cat was as much enquired about, by those who courted her favour, as herself. She had also a favourite canary-bird, which she brought all the way from Paris, to Brighthelmstone, in a hand-

a handkerchief, and from thence to Grafton-street.

To shew her attention to her cat, she took it with us once on a journey to Portsmouth, when we travelled with post-horses; the boys, through carelessness, overturned us and dragged the coach some way before they stopped, so as to break off the door and the pannels on one side, and tumbled us all out in the road; for the coach was full. As Providence would have it, no bones were broken, though I was so much bruised in my shoulder, as to make it necessary to apply to a Surgeon at the next town; and we were all, more or less, hurt, but the cat. Mrs. Baddeley in the midst of all

all this, got up and cried after her Cud-dle, fearful he was hurt, and paid no attention to any of us, but ran after him, to catch him, saying, had his bones been broken, she should have gone distracted.

We, next morning, went to see Mrs. Snow, whom we found much recovered; and on my wishing to go to Hammer-smith, to see what was done to my house there, having left workmen in it, Mrs. Baddeley gave a private order to the coachman, to drive us to Richmond, and on the road, began a long story, which I had never before heard, of her family; and being full of humour, and both of us in high spirits, I laughed so immoderately all the way, that I did not notice

notice where I was, till we arrived at Kew-bridge, and stopped to pay the toll. Surprised, I cry'd out, "Good
" god, where has the coachman brought
" us to?" "Oh," said Mrs. Baddeley,
" a little round I suppose for a ride;
" and as we are here, let us go and ask
" Mrs. Adams how she does;" who
was an acquaintance of ours, that lived
in Kew-lane. She received us politely,
and pressed us to stay dinner, which I
was prevailed on to do, and after dinner
Mrs. Baddeley proposed going to Rich-
mond Theatre, where Captain Fawkner
joined us, as by accident. Whether he
had any private intimation from her, of
her coming, I cannot say, but the let-

ter

ter she received the night before, never struck me till that moment. The play was poorly performed, and wishing to be in town before it was late, I desired her not to stay the entertainment, which was readily agreed to; we were handed into the carriage by Captain Fawkner, who got in with us, and instructed the coachman to drive to the Castle, where he said he had ordered a supper; having learned from Mr. Hobart, that Mrs. Baddeley was at the Theatre, and expecting the pleasure of her company. I was unwilling to go, but Mrs. Baddeley seemed bent upon it, and I could not prevent her.

Captain

Captain Fawkner, who now made no secret of his attachment to Mrs. Baddeley, took uncommon pains to convince her of it. He provided a very elegant supper, with a choice service of fruit, and the best wines the house afforded, and Mrs. Baddeley seemed not a little pleased at this interview. I found myself disagreeably situated, as to keep a restraint on Mrs. Baddeley, was at times a very difficult task. I should wish to speak more favourably of her, but as I profess to write the truth, and leave a considerate public to make allowance for her frailties; I must say, that she would have forsaken all the world, to have taken up with Captain Fawkner; and he talked of protection;

and laying his little fortune at her feet. I requested him to desist from such conversation, and argued with him but to no purpose ; for neither of them attended to me. I then told her, she was certainly her own mistress, to act as she pleased, and might remain so ; for I would order a chaise to carry me to town, and leave them to themselves. At this Mrs. Baddeley's prudence took the alarm, and she said she would go with me. Mr. Fawkner was then on his knees, soliciting her stay, and I insisting on going to town. This put some little stop to the conversation. It was now one in the morning ; and Mrs. Baddeley said, " Let you and I, my dear Steele, " sleep here to night, and Captain Fawk-

" ner

"ner shall go directly." "Certainly," adds he, "if you will oblige Mrs. Baddeley by staying, I will instantly wish you a good night." To get rid of him, I agreed, and he kept his word, and left us. We ordered a fire in our chamber, and slept together. I reasoned with her a great deal on her behaviour, and frequently reminded her of what she promised her mother; but she said, Captain Fawkner was such a beautiful fellow, and his manner so engaging, that she loved him beyond expression, and should be happy to give up all her pride, and live with him on a shilling a day; that she had long loved him, and was not ashamed to own it, and that was her ruin to be the consequence,

she was determined to see him, as often as he would do her the favour to call upon her. "It must be, then" replied I, "when I am not in the way, for "he shall never come into a house of "mine, or into any one where I live."

"Oh! dear Mrs. Steele don't say so!" returns she, taking me round the neck and crying bitterly. Now, as I never could bear to see her unhappy, I begged of her to be pacifyed, and hear reason. "No reason," cries she, "will "ever erase him from my heart, and "therefore, I am doomed to misery. I "am almost afraid and ashamed to confess to you, that I have loved Captain Fawkner these six months, and have carried on a secret correspondence, un-

"observed

“ observed by you the whole time ; many
“ a happy hour have we enjoyed toge-
“ ther ; and every thing he asked of me,
“ I have cheerfully granted. Betty,
“ my maid, has been privy to his coming
“ at all times, and when I have com-
“ plained of a head-ach, and have lain
“ down, she has admitted him to my
“ chamber. In short,” says she, “ my
“ dear Mrs. Steele, having confessed this,
“ I have nothing more to keep from you,
“ and if you debar me from seeing him,
“ you will make me wretched.” As I
found reasoning with her, only served
to make her miserable, I thought the
best way would be to drop the conver-
sation at present, and contrive it, in fu-
ture, if possible, that she should not see
him,

him. Had the maid been with me, I would have discharged her, but she had married the footman and was gone. We ordered breakfast, and Captain Fawkner as soon as we came down, made his appearance, with all the elegance that dress could add to his person ; though to do him justice, he wanted not the ornament of dress to set him off. Nature had been bountiful to him, both in features and person, and he was a man whom the ladies much admired. Yet this did not seem to give him any consequence in himself, as is not much the case with many handsome men. He was easy in his manners, and generous in his way of thinking, except in his conduct to one lady of rank, with whom
he

he boasted of a connexion to Mrs. Baddeley, as I mentioned before.

After breakfast they took a walk into the garden, and in the mean time I ordered the carriage, and when it was ready, sent for Mrs. Baddeley, who came directly, and said, if agreeable to me, Captain Fawkner would take a ride with us to Kew-bridge: as I made no reply, she begged him to step in. When he had taken his seat, he addressed me, with, " My dear Mrs. Steele, " how have I offended you, that you seem so displeased at my happiness?" " My conduct, Sir," replied I, " requires no explanation, the impropriety

" propriety of your's and Mrs. Baddeley's, is between yourselves ; therefore, the least that is said on the subject the better, particularly as I know Mrs. Baddeley's mind perfectly." He was pleased to say many civil things to me, but without effect ; I made no answer to any of them, and when we came to Kew-bridge, he took his leave, and walked back to Richmond. " Now," says Mrs. Baddeley, " with your leave, we will go to Hammersmith." " Provided," returned I, pettishly, " that Mr. Coachman has no private orders to the contrary." She then owned, she had ordered him to take us to Richmond, for she was determined

terminated to see the dear fellow, if possible she could.

On our arrival at Hammersmith-hope, we found the improvements going on, but not completed. A large bow-window was made in the front of the house, with a flat leaden roof and ballustrades; and a long room built over the kitchen for a laundry. We found twenty men at work, and made them happy by ordering them a dinner at the public house.

On our return to Grafton-street, we had a visit from Mr. Dibden. This gentleman was in the musical line, and played Mungo at Drury-lane Theatre; he

he was a person of some merit in his profession ; but, like many more men of merit, in distressed circumstances : he drank tea with us ; the design of this visit was to borrow a little cash, which he had, as soon as asked for. This kindness of Mrs. Baddeley's to Mr. Dibden, was ill bestowed, as I shall have an occasion to mention hereafter, in a matter that does him very little honour.

Not knowing well how to dispose of ourselves the next day, Mrs. Baddeley, who, though of a timid disposition, did not want for resolution occasionally, expressed a wish of going to sit up all night in a house at Wandsworth, which had the reputation of being haunted,
and

and had been untenanted for many years, and asked me to accompany her ; I was unwilling at first, but she put me on my mettle, by saying I was afraid, and that my conscience was not so good as her's, and I consented to go. Her plan was, to take wine and provision with us, to comfort and regale us in the night ; and to go there in the day-time, that we might procure wood and coals to burn and keep us warm. She had frequently heard, she said, of ghosts and spirits, but had no idea of any such things, and if there was a hobgoblin that infested that house, she would endeavour to see it. My opinion was, that if we went, it would be better to disguise ourselves, than to have it known

known who we were. She fell into the same opinion, and we sent our servants from town to Hammersmith to prepare for this piece of folly. When we got to Hammersmith, we dressed ourselves in such a manner, as to resemble Gipfys, more than any other character, and our five maid-servants had enough to do to procure bad cloaths, sufficient for the purpose, for our three men and five maids were to be in disguise also, and of the party, lest we might want protection. We hired two strange watermen to take us there, and to wait and bring us back, if we stayed all night. These two fellows were in all appearance as beggarly as ourselves. After putting provisions and wine into the boat,

boat, we were ready ; but Mrs. Baddeley, to complete her appearance and mine, rubbed both our faces and hands with walnut rind ; and such figures were we, as were never seen before. Thus equipped, we went all together, ten of us in number, through our garden into this boat, unseen by any one. We landed at a by-place near a mill, on this side Wandsworth, at the side of a large house belonging to some gentleman, at whose gate stood a young woman-servant, about twenty years of age. She called to me and said, “ Harkee, mis-
“ trefs, can you tell fortunes ? ” “ Yes,
“ my dear,” says I, “ and I will tell
“ you your’s, if you will cross my hand
“ with a piece of silver.” “ I will give

“ you, or your partner,” returns she;
“ sixpence, if you will tell me mine.”
To this Mrs. Baddeley made answer;
“ Give me the sixpence and I will tell
“ you.” The money being given, Mrs.
Baddeley took her by the hand, and
after a minute examination, said, “ You
“ are in love with a false-hearted man,
“ who is a servant.” “That’s true,” said
the girl, “ for he loves another in my
“ master’s house, better than he does
“ me.” This was enough for Baddeley,
she ran on, and enlarged on it. The
girl was very much pleased with what
she heard, and said, “ Here’s our house-
“ maid a coming, she is the girl my
“ sweet-heart is fond of.” This other
wench came up and asked us to tell her
fortune;

fortune ; I undertook to be her propheticess, and from the hint I had received, as other fortune-tellers do, I managed her well, by saying, "She would have the " man she loved, who was a servant in " that house ; that he had no liking for " any other woman, though he might " pay his court to another ; that she " was his delight, and would be his " wife in three months ; would live well " and have seven children by him." She gave me a shilling, and wished I would tell the footmen their fortunes ; I told her we should be this way again to-morrow, and left her, talking with Baddeley such gibberage as led the girls to think we dealt with the devil. When we were out of sight, we enjoyed this

adventure exceedingly. We were all in the height of merriment, for, in this expedition, we put our servants under no restraint. Meeting an old man in the lane, we enquired whereabout the haunted house stood ? The old man fell on his knees, said his prayers, and looked frightened at us all. He told us, he was only a poor pig-killer, and hoped we would not hurt him. To make him happy, we gave him the eighteen-pence we had earned at the great house, saying, we had just picked it up. He seemed thankful for it, but I believe more to get clear from such a tribe. All the persons we met with, stared at us prodigiously, as well they might, but none could give us any information

re-

relative to the haunted house, though we enquired of several. At last we met a pretty decent woman, and made the same enquiry of her, and she told us, she lived adjoining to it ; that we might go through her garden into the garden belonging to the house, and if we would follow her, we had not more than half a mile to go. This pleased us both, for we began to lag, having walked more than two hours up and down, and could hear of no such place till now. This woman, we understood afterwards, had met the pig-killer, who advised her by no means to go the road she did, as there was a parcel of vagrants in the way, " Though," says he, " as they " gave me eighteen-pence which they

" found, I scarce knew what to make
" of them." This intelligence, how-
ever, put the woman upon the look-
out. She talked to us all the way, and
bringing us down to the river side, and
pointing to a house which she said was
her's, we followed her in, and she said,
" Come good folks shall we drink to-
" gether?" " Yes," returned we, " with
" all our hearts, and we will treat you
" with some beer." " Well then," says
she, " let's go up stairs, there is room
" for us all." Up we went, and join-
ed our money, three-pence a piece, to
send for beer and bread and cheese.
The woman then told us, she had a girl
that would give us a good song, and
she would bring her in, and as there
were

were but three chairs in the room, the greater part of us sat down upon the floor. The woman, bringing in a quartern loaf, some cheese, and a gallon of beer, with two knives, said, "Come good folks, cut away, you are as welcome as if at home." She was a clever woman, and carried on the farce with us well. The girl came in, and after she had eat and drank heartily, began to sing, and such a voice as struck us all with admiration. I was fearful Baddeley would forget the character she was playing, so transported was she with the girl's harmonious pipe. She sang us three songs, and we then asked the woman to shew us to the haunted house. "Oh!" says she, "this is it,
" there

" there is not a house in the parish
" haunted with spirits I wish to get rid
" of, more than mine, for I have nine
" children and four apprentices, be-
" longing to my husband, who is a
" punt-cutter, and I have more than I
" can well do to feed them; therefore,
" make yourselves easy, for there is no
" house in this parish haunted but
" mine." We could not help laugh-
ing at the woman, who had too much
cunning and wit for us all. She had
got out of one of the watermen, whom
she knew, where he had brought us
from; though we had not the least sus-
picion of it at that time, and had of
course played us off in our own way.
Finding we were *smoked*, as the phrase
is,

is, and it beginning to grow late, we thought it best to return home, especially as the business we set out upon could not be effected; for we could hear of no haunted house in that place. Having found the watermen had brought the boat near this place, we took leave of the woman, gave the girl a shilling amongst us, and embarked afresh. Mrs. Baddeley was much disappointed, but on the whole, the day was not unpleasantly spent.

On our return to Hammersmith, we new dressed ourselves, but could not take out the stains from our faces; we tried a variety of things, and could not thoroughly clear our skins for some days.

days. A few days after, a woman called on us in Grafton-street, and wished to see the lady's servant; "What lady?" says the man, "Your mis-trefs," returns the woman; "why sure, you can't but know me? Have you so soon forgot the haunted house?" "For God's sake," says the man, "not a word of that here. Come down into the kitchen. It was only a frolick of mine, and my fellow servants, and was it known to our ladies, we should lose our places." "No, no," says the woman, "there is little fear of that, the ladies had their frolick as well as you, and I beg the favour of seeing them. I shall not mention a word that passed yesterday; I only want

" want to acquaint them with some-
" thing of consequence." The man
took her down into the kitchen, gave
her a glass of Madeira, spread a cloth
on the table, and set some cold meat
before her. Whilst she was taking re-
freshment, he came up and acquainted
us with what had passed. We con-
sidered a little how we should act, and
then determined to see her; accordingly
she was brought up, and when she saw us,
dressed as we were then, and considered
the appearance we made at Wand-
sworth, she could scarcely keep her
countenance. She began with, saying,
" She hoped we would pardon her for
" the liberty she had now taken, but
" that she was induced by two motives
" to

“ to wait on us; to beg we would, if
“ possible, get her child upon the stage,
“ and to acquaint us with a misfortune
“ that had happened to her this morn-
“ ing, that of her landlord’s having
“ seized her goods for eight pounds,
“ being one year’s rent; and if she did
“ not pay him in a day or two, her bed
“ would be sold from under her, and
“ her children, with her husband, be
“ turned out of doors.” At this she
shed many tears, having no more to give
her landlord than three pounds, which
he would not take. We then asked
her, “ If she had three guineas more to
“ give him, whether she thought he
“ would be satisfied ?” She replied,
“ not without the whole rent.” Upon
this

this, we said, "Come, tell us honestly
" how you found us out, and we will
" help you to pay your rent." She
then told us the story of the pig-killer,
and our giving him some money, and
the observations she made on us when
first she met us, and my having on, with
that squallid garb, a pair of black satin
slippers: these circumstances convinced
her we were not in reality what we ap-
peared to be; and when she went to or-
der the beer, she saw one of the watermen
who brought us, whom she had known
from a child; and he told her who we
were, and where we lived; and that she
took the first opportunity of waiting on
us, without having said a word of what
passed to any one. She had often heard,

she said, of the many charitable acts done by us, which induced her to apply, and she assured us, we could not do a more humane act than by relieving her. Well, on a promise, that she would keep this frolic of ours to herself, we gave her five guineas, and she was very thankful. Notwithstanding our bounty to this woman, we had our fears that the story would get abroad, and find it's way into a newspaper; but we were happily disappointed: we never heard of it afterwards. Often, however, did we see this woman, who never went away without a present.

We

We were now under the necessity of making fresh cloaths, having lost great part of our wardrobe in our blessed tour to France. It was a rule with us to make all our gowns at home. Mrs. Baddeley and I cut them out, and our servants made them ; we set them all to work, and were soon new dressed. The post now brought letters from Bright-helmstone; from Lord Melbourne, Lord Pigot, and Mr. Hanger.

Lord Pigot's letter was to know, if possible, when we meant to return to Brighthelmstone, and Mrs. Baddeley wrote his Lordship word, that she de-

M 2 signed

signed being there, the Tuesday following, (this being Friday).

As to Mr. Hanger's, it was only the same story over again, lamenting his misfortunes, telling her, he should be in town on Friday, and leave it in a day or two after for Paris; in order to be far enough, if possible, to forget his misery. He was here almost as soon as his letter, and called on us that evening, but we were denied. He told the servant, he knew we were at home, but that was no matter. After this we heard no more of him, till he set off for Paris; but to accommodate and help him on his journey, I let him have my horse, which he

he took over to France with him, and never returned ; nor has he ever paid a shilling of the many sums I lent him, out of my own pocket, though he knows I have often wanted it. This fact I dare him to disprove. He was also mean enough to borrow money of Mrs. Baddeley, to carry to Almack's to game with, and never returned her a guinea ; even when she was distressed for one. Mrs. Baddeley had nearly lent him upon one occasion, four hundred pounds, and he would have had it, had I not prevented it, by saying, "I had that day paid it away," for she left her money chiefly in my possession. He began to interrogate me on this, and asked me to whom I had paid it ? I told him "It was

" question he was not authorised to ask,
" nor should I resolve him." We pro-
ceeded then to high words. " He sup-
posed," he said, " I had lent it to some
" gambler;" and on my saying I knew no
gambler but himself, he thought pro-
per rudely to contradict me, and declare
that a certain gentleman, a Physician,
a valuable and particular friend of mine,
was the greatest gambler in all England.
On my assuring him I would inform
the gentleman of what he said, with-
out any other provocation, he gave me
such a blow on the mouth, as beat
out one of my double teeth. Declar-
ing I would make an example of him
for this, and prosecute him; he begged
my pardon, and would submit to any
thing

thing, if I would forgive him; for that the blow was given in the heat of passion. I told him he should never receive my forgiveness; though Mrs. Baddeley was mean-spirited enough to put up with the many blows, she received from him, he should find the contrary in me. For he has beat Mrs. Baddeley, at times, when he has been alone with her; that I have seen her arms black, from wrist to shoulder, and her neck also. But to return to my narrative.

Captain Fawkner called to pay us a morning visit, but we were denied. He requested his name might be delivered on our return, and said as he had a little business

business in Bond-street, he would call again, and possibly the ladies might be then at home. The servant brought up Captain Fawkner's message, and Mrs. Baddeley begged to see him; I remonstrated against it, but she was so pressing, that it was of no use to deny her: he returned, and staid dinner with us. During his stay, Mr. Robert Conway, and Mr. William Hanger, called in company, they were admitted, and were with me an hour; but I made an excuse for their not seeing Mrs. Baddeley. These gentlemen had not been gone five minutes, before Lord Melbourne knocked at the door: seeing him through the window, I let him in and sent Mrs. Baddeley word of it, who
was

was then with Captain Fawkner. His Lordship was in his boots, said, he was that instant come to town, and though he could not stay five minutes, he had just run to see how we all were. Mrs. Baddeley came now into the parlour, and he began to express how miserable he had been, in his absence from her, and that if he had not met with her in town, he should have set off immediately for Brighthelmstone, in pursuit of her. Having now seen her, he would step home, and be with her again in two hours. After a thousand tender expressions he left her, and as soon as he was gone, she said, she must return to Mr. Fawkner. I then told her again of the impropriety of her conduct,

duct, and represented to her how much she laid herself open to *her* servants as well as mine, and pointed out to her many things that might tend to the ruin of her, and the unhappiness of his Lordship and his family. To this she replied, " You are right," and seemed flurried. " I wish Mr. Fawkner was gone, and if ever he returns to this house, to make my mind uneasy again; I leave you to say what you please to him, and to act as you think proper; provided it is not in my sight or hearing." Captain Fawkner soon after went away; and she promised never to see him again. She now dressed to receive Lord Melbourne, who returned before the two hours, full of love and

and affection, and, having some letters to write, I left them together. His Lordship continued with her four hours, and then rung the bell, and desired to see me. On my coming into the room, he cried out. "So, Mrs. Steele, I here "you have been the Lord knows "where?" "Have not you laid out "all your cash?" "No," said I, "My Lord." At this Mrs. Baddeley frowned at me. "Well," said he, I "have put some paper on the table; "if you do not want it now, it will "serve you when you do." I left it there, and we entered into chat, for about ten minutes, when his Lordship took his leave, saying, he would be with her to-morrow; but as he could
not

not name the hour, hoped Mrs. Baddeley would not go out.

His Lordship was no sooner gone, than Mrs. Baddeley went to the table, and took up the bank-notes, the amount of which was, two hundred pounds, saying, he ought to have left more. However, she gave it to me, to place it to account, of which I always kept a regular one of all she received and paid; with copies of all the tradesmen's bills. The originals with their receipts I filed, and have them to this day. Her extravagancies and profuseness made this necessary, that as I kept the money, she might always have recourse to the account, and see how it

was

was disposed of. When I talk of profusion, I adhere only to the truth, which I profess to write, with the strictest minuteness. I could have interspersed this work, with occasional adventures which never happened, as many writers of memoirs have done, but I persuade myself, my readers will be better pleased, with this simple diary of our proceedings, (which if necessary, I could with a good conscience swear to the truth of it, without the least exaggeration or embellishment); than with a fabulous account of things that have no existence, but in fancy. Her extravagance at times run very great lengths, considering the money she received. In one instance, as my books will shew, she

laid out, for many days together, not less than three guineas a day, in the article of early flowers, such as moss-roses, carnations, and others. But this is only a trifle, compared with other things. I have known her go to Mr. King's, the Mercer's, and lay out thirty or forty guineas for a facque and coat, of rich winter silk; and would purchase two or three more, at the same time; make them up, and not wear them three times, before she would give them to her maid. These are known and plain facts. Millinery she would buy in proportion, for she had every new fashion. I have milliners receipts by me now, to the amount of two thousand pounds, spent in two years and a half;

half; and mercers receipts, to a much greater amount; with a list of all other tradesmens bills, equally extravagant. Linen-drapers bills, at this time, were eight hundred pounds. The jewel-lers near four thousand pounds; all in diamonds. In short, there was no end to her expence, in dress and perfumery. It was no use to talk of economy. Every thing her fancy could suggest, she would have, if money would purchase it; let the expence be what it would. She once bought a whole piece of very fine muslin, plated with silver leaves, for which she paid forty-eight pounds. Of this she made a masquerade dress, and wore it only one night; the next day she cut it out, to make up in nonsensical things,

to give away to children. And on a masquerade night, though she had a profusion of diamonds of her own, she has hired others, for the use of which, for one night, she has paid fifteen or twenty pounds. I do not wish to say so much of her extravagancies, but thought it necessary, that the reader may judge how she disposed of her money. "Light come," they say, "light go." Whether this proverb was applicable to her, I will not say; I would fain persuade myself to believe, that the many good and kind offices she did, arose from a principle of benevolence, and a wish to communicate happiness to others. She was generous, if it may be called generosity, to a fault; for no person could notice,

notice or admire a thing she had, but she would give it them directly; let the value be what it would. At times she was rather whimsical; she would one day put up furniture in the house, and next day pull it down, and was always changing. Nothing, either of dress or furniture pleased her long. We had workmen of some denomination always in the house, such as upholsterers, painters, carpenters and the like. No certainty of her being in the same mind two days together. Apt to be struck with new faces, in men, though not wickedly so. To dissuade her from this, I have often attempted, but to no purpose. I will own that my great regard for her, led me into a compliance with some of

her extravagancies, for had I not acquiesced, we should have been eternally at words; as it was, we were very happy, whilst we lived together; I was led, by good nature, to sooth her into a compliance with what was right, and can with great truth say, had she not been checked in some of her whims and caprices, ten thousand pounds a year would not have paid her bills; and her conduct, blameable as it may appear, would have been ten times worse, had not a little reasonable advice been thrown in her way. With all these faults, she was, as I have observed, not without her good qualities: that of being good to her family, was the principal. No poor person did she ever see, but she relieved,

nor

nor did she hear of a real distress, in any individual, but her purse was always open to serve them. She was fond of books, and read at all opportunities. Histories and plays were her chief delight, and she was always receiving lessons in music. Doctor Arne, and Mr. Tenducci, constantly attended her, and many other masters; though she retired from the stage, she still kept up her singing; and improved herself much. We had often morning concerts at our house with accompaniments; by people of fashion; she was fond of Italian music, and learned many songs in the different operas, which she sung with great taste, and judgment, and took much delight

delight in this kind of amusement. But to resume my history.

Lord Melbourne came again in the evening, and in unusual good humour, throwed his hat one way, his cane another, and sat himself down with saying, he was tired to death, with prancing about all day with his Betsy a shopping, and wished to lay down to rest himself. Mrs. Baddeley accompanied him, and I saw no more of them till ten the next morning when he rose, and saying, he fell a sleep and of course staid longer than he designed, sent for a chair and went home. Mrs. Baddeley told me, that he had made her a number of promises, and among the rest that he would settle four hundred

dred pounds a year upon her, as he had done upon Harriet Powel, whom he regularly paid; and that from his proposed liberality and kindness, she was determined to be constant to him, and not listen to the application of any man living.

This morning, after his Lordship was gone, came the following note from Captain Fawkner.

" Captain Fawkner's best respects
" wait on dear Mrs. Baddeley, to en-
" quire after her health, and inform
" her, he was much mortified at being
" debarred the pleasure of her company
" yesterday evening; being under the
disagreeable

“ disagreeable necessity of going to
“ Richmond, hopes he shall be so
“ happy as to see her there, and begs
“ the favour of a line addressed to him
“ there, - as soon as convenient. His
“ respects to Mrs. Steele.”

Mrs. Baddeley received the note, and said, “ Very well;” but declared she would not write a single line in answer, determining to convince me by her future conduct, that she was sensible of my good advice, and was resolved to profit by it. Lord Melbourne, she said, was to be with her again in the morning, and she would then tell me before him, of the kind proposal he had made her of a settlement

settlement, and begged me to follow him up, that she might have an opportunity of doing it.

In the morning Mr. Tenducci came and taught her an Italian song, which Signor Vento composed purposely for her, and for which she paid him twenty guineas. When dressed, she sent for the woollen-draper, in order to choose a new riding-habit, and some cloth for new liveries; this led me into an additional expence, as I always cloathed my man in the same livery as her's. Mr. George Hobart, Lord Buckinghamshire's brother, then joint-manager of the Opera-house, called to talk with us about the continuation of our box.

This

This gentleman was one of Mrs. Baddeley's professed admirers, and very much her humble servant, though in a private way; he did not wish his visits to be known, but his esteem was expressed with great sincerity, on all opportunities, and no person behaved to her, with more honour. She was at all times glad to see him, and he made a point of calling on her as often as he could. She had admission at every rehearsal at the Opera-house, and went always, whenever she could spare the time. Whilst she lived on good terms with Mr. Hanger, Mr. Hobart was her confidant, and was a true friend to her on all occasions.

Lord Melbourne soon after came, and, though not disposed to stay, Mrs. Baddeley led him into conversation, merely to bring on the carpet the settlement he proposed the day before. The matter was mentioned by her, and I told his Lordship, that if he would do that, he would make Mrs. Baddeley truly happy; for her chief anxiety arose from having no provision for a future day: to which his Lordship replied,
“ Well, Mrs. Steele, I will take care
“ of that, and soon, you may depend
“ upon it.” Of course, the subject dropped for the present. He told Mrs. Baddeley, as he was going to Brocket-Hall (that is his country seat) in a few days, where he was to have a good deal

of company ; she might go, if she pleased, to Brighthelmstone. He begged to say a few more words to her alone before he went, and she retired with him for that purpose, and he continued with her three hours.

When he came down again, it was near supper-time, but he went away, desiring me to go up to Mrs. Baddeley, as she had a great head-ach, and was not well. I went up to her, and found her not very well. She thanked me for what I had said in her behalf to Lord Melbourne, and told me he had given her two hundred pounds to pay her expences at Brighthelmstone, and had promised her twenty brilliant pins ; and if I would

I would order them to be made, he would pay for them. I asked her what price she was to go to? She replied, "As showey as they could be made for twenty guineas each." Telling her the twenty would then come to four hundred guineas; she said, "Order then ten only at first, and I will talk to his Lordship about the other ten."—After supper, she was rather better. I sent for Mr. Tomkins the jeweller, in Maiden-lane; gave him orders for ten pins, and when they were brought home, I paid him two hundred pounds for the same, which Lord Melbourne paid me again, and asked me, why I had not ordered the whole twenty he promised Mrs. Baddeley. I told his Lordship

they were ordered, but these ten were brought home first; by which means, Mrs. Baddeley had another ten, and Lord Melbourne paid for them. She always wore two watches, with very valuable trinkets; one was an expensive one, the other a little beautiful French watch, that hung by way of trinket to a chain, set with diamonds, the value of which could not be less than two hundred pounds. She had also, at one time, four brilliant diamond necklaces, the least of which cost three hundred pounds; two were of near double the value each, and the fourth was the one Lord Melbourne paid Mr. Tomkins four hundred and fifty pounds for. She had a pair of beautiful enamelled

led bracelets, as large as a half-crown piece, set round with brilliants, which cost a hundred and fifty pounds; a diamond bow, which cost four hundred pounds, and rings out of number; with a pretty side-board of plate worth three hundred pounds, besides silver candlesticks. Her house in town was as elegantly furnished as a good taste and money could make it; the walls of her drawing-room were hung with silk curtains, drawn up in festoons, which she had done, in imitation of Madame du Barre's room, at Versailles, Lewis the Fifteenth's mistres, and every thing proportionably elegant and costly; so that she lived, and made an appearance equal to a woman of the first rank. Her

liveries were superfine dark blue cloth, lined with scarlet, the edge of which just appeared; scarlet cuffs and collar, with two rows of scolloped silver lace round them; the same round the waist-coat, which was blue, with silver-laced hats. The servants had also undress liveries, and many other emoluments, so that their places were very profitable. I don't remember paying a bill of any consequence, without obliging the receiver of it to give them something; besides the many sums they got from the nobility that frequented the house, and the card-money which was divided equally among them all. We kept nine servants, and they were all regularly paid.

Lord

Lord Melbourne fixed the day for his going into the country, at which time it was settled, that we should set off to Brighthelmstone, and return when he returned. On parting with Mrs. Baddeley, he was pleased to say, he had not forgot his promise to take care of his dearest love for life, and on his return would fulfil it; but in this promise, the most material of all, he was pleased to forget his dearest love, and never made the least provision for her, though often reminded of it by me, and entreated by Mrs. Baddeley; yet, in other respects, he was lavish in her favour, and would at all times gratify her utmost wishes, except in the granting of a settlement; and this we were induced

to

to think, arose merely from neglect and inattention; for he was bountiful to her in the extreme. Often would she say, "My Lord, I wish for such and such a thing, " but Mrs. Steele tells me it is extra- " vagant;" and his Lordship would reply, " Pray, Mrs. Steele, say nothing " about it: I shall not refuse her sweet " face any thing; I beg she may have " every thing she wishes for, and if I " do not allow a sufficiency for it, tell " me, and I will give her more." Talking therefore of economy was idle, for she would say, " Lord Melbourne " has no other desire but to give me " every thing I wish for, and I must, " and will have it; for, as I shall have " his love and friendship as long as I " live,

"live, I shall never want." Here she was deceived, as will appear in the sequel, and I hope it will be a lesson to some of my young readers, to be upon their guard, against the treachery and deceptions of man, and learn by the fate of Mrs. Baddeley, in a future day, how much wiser and happier it is, to follow the paths of virtue, and study by honest endeavours to live a reputable life; than to enjoy, as she did, for a time, all the splendor and elegance of dissipation, under those faithless connexions, whose object is the gratification of a momentary impulse, which soon cools, and leaves the unhappy female, who depends on them, to lament her folly in bitterness, anguish and distress.

In our way to Brighthelmstone, we called to see our little god-child, with whom we left some presents, and after staying about half an hour, and giving the mother three guineas, we returned to our carriage, and found a Gentleman running to the door to hand us in. This was the Honourable and handsome Mr. Dillon : having paid his respects to us, he took his leave.

When we reached our house, at Brighthelmstone, our first business was to arrange matters for leaving it; for we were determined to stay no longer than whilst we could discharge it, adjust our affairs, and pack up our things. We sent for Lord Pigot, whom Mrs. Baddeley

deley made a confident, and told him of Lord Melbourne's kind intentions.— Lord Pigot gave her the best advice ; bad her remember that beauty would not last for ever ; and recommended it to her, to pursue her pleasures with prudence, and save for a rainy day. Her reply was, “ There is time enough for “ that. I find your Lordship and Mrs. “ Steele, are of the same way of think- “ ing ; but, for my part, I will have “ my frolics and pleasures, convinced “ I shall not live to be old. Though “ open to conviction,” continued she, “ I am not a child, and don't want ad- “ vice of this kind. I have talents, and “ a profession to follow, and should age “ come on, shall be in no want of a

“ pro-

“ provision.” At this, she burst into tears, and lamented, that in her first outset in life, she had not met with a man who would have treated her as a wife ought to have been ; as she should than have lived happily with him, and free from the many hours of remorse she had since experienced. “ I too “ well know my faults and my impru- “ dence, but one folly led into another, “ and vanity, which is my greatest “ failing, encouraged by the attention “ I met with from men of rank and for- “ tune, induced me to accept of those “ offers, prudence should have taught “ me to spurn at. Thus introduced “ into a bad plan of life, necessity kept “ it up, and I have become a sacrifice
“ to

“ to my own folly.”—“ Come,” says Lord Pigot, “ let us say no more upon this subject.”—But she went on, requesting his Lordship to hear her out, as it gave her great relief to convince him, she was not ignorant of her faults: “ Nay,” says she, “ I must confess to your Lordship, that, though in the highest degree of splendor, I often look down and envy the situation of the lowest of my servants, and fancy her far more happy. She earns her bread by her industry, and when her daily work is done, can sit down with a conscience void of remorse, as it is clear from vice. Oh, what pleasure must such a mind enjoy! Many a cottage have I looked on with a

“ wishful eye, and thought the people
“ within, though poor, and perhaps
“ without a chair to sit on, much more
“ happy and contented, than I, who
“ passed it in a coach and four, attend-
“ ed with a suite of servants.” Here
her tears interrupted her, and I sympa-
thized with her. Lord Pigot begged
her not to dwell on a subject that gave
her pain, and made some apology for
being the cause of it. To this, she
said, “ Oh, my Lord,” taking me to
her arms, and wetting my face with her
tears; “ Here is in this friend, all that
“ is good and great. Would to God I
“ had followed her advice! I might
“ then have enjoyed a peace of mind I
“ am now a stranger to. She placed
“ me

" me above the world, on a most faithful promise on my part to follow my profession, and by serving me, even hurt herself." To repeat further what she said respecting me, might have the appearance of vanity. I loved Mrs. Baddeley as my sister, and I was ever anxious she should act consistent with the rules of virtue and decorum. I may, perhaps, be censured for living with her, after I found there was no reclaiming her; but I had still the hopes of doing it, and whilst there were any hopes, I never gave them up. I was young like Mrs. Baddeley, and though I could not boast, perhaps, of her share of beauty, I was not in the early part of my life without my temptations. But

I thank God I had a mind above them all, and conducted myself with that propriety every woman ought ; and I call on all those whose names I have mentioned in these volumes, to contradict the assertion if they can, or lay any thing to my charge that is not strictly virtuous.

Lord Pigot found some difficulty to draw Mrs. Baddeley from these self-reflections, and nothing effected it but his telling her a piece of news then generally talked of at Brighthelmstone ; that of a married lady of fashion being caught in an improper situation by her husband's brother, with a certain Captain, who shall be nameless. Mrs. Baddeley said,

said, she was much surprized at this, as till then she had ever been thought spotless. Lord Pigot said the same, but the fact was as he related it, declaring he had it from the husband's brother.

“ Well,” says Mrs. Baddeley, “ I presume she is undone for ever. Her husband will despise her, and the Captain has it not in his power to provide for her.”

Lord Pigot leaving us, we walked out upon the Steine, where Mrs. Baddeley, as usual, received the compliments of many of the nobility ; even the ladies spoke of her with rapture ; “ There is that divine face ! That beautiful creature ! ” Others would

cry out, "Here's Mrs. Baddeley;—
"What a sweet woman!" This was
echoed in her ears perpetually, and
frequently put her to the blush. Most
women have some small degree of va-
nity, and there are few possessed of more
fortitude than her, that could have
avoided shewing a little pride upon the
occasion. Mrs. Baddeley never shewed
any; she must certainly be pleased at
being spoke well of, but yet, she would
walk about and not seem to notice it.

Determining the next day to leave
the place, we returned home, and pre-
pared for our departure. We stopped at
the cottage as we passed, to see our
god-child, and Lord Pigot asking to
see

see the infant also, we all got out. His Lordship, with his usual good-nature, talked to the woman, said many kind things to her, and declared, if he had known it, he should have been happy to have stood god-father to so sweet a child ; then taking out his purse, he gave the mother five guineas. The poor woman, with tears of gratitude curtesied, and could only courtesy, for her tears flowed so fast as to stop her utterance. When she was able to speak, she expressed herself in so polite a manner, for so poor a woman, that it struck his Lordship, who begged her to say no more, and assured her it should not be the last time of his calling, or sending to her. On our quitting the house,

we bestowed our mite upon the grandmother, and pursued our journey. Lord Pigot expressed himself highly pleased with the neatness and cleanliness of the place, the beauty of the children, and the address of the mother, which was so far beyond any thing he had reason to expect, when he first allighted, that he talked of nothing else all the way to Stenning, where his Lordship insisted on our dining. This dinner, with coffee, detained us late, and Mrs. Baddeley wishing to call on Sir Cecil Bishop, in her way, in hopes of getting some game to carry to town, proposed our staying at Stenning all night. I consenting, Lord Pigot continued with us till eight, and

and then returned in his chaise and four to Brighthelmstone.

At seven the next morning, we set off for Storrington, found Sir Cecil at home, and happy to see us: he pressed us to stay dinner, but we declined. After filling our carriage with game and fruit, we left him, and got safe to London.

On reaching home, we found letters from Captain Fawkner and Captain Crawford his friend, and one from Mr. R. Conway. Sir Thomas Mills had called, and begged us to let him know, as soon as we come to town, as he had some matter of importance to communicate.

nicate. Curious to learn what this was, we sent him word the next day of our arrival. On the receipt of our note he came, and this matter of importance, was only an invitation to dine with him and some friends, the next day, which we were pressed to accept. Mr. Henry Hobart, brother to the Honourable George Hobart, called now, to pay Mrs. Baddeley for some tickets he had at her last benefit. He said, as did all the men, a great many civil things to her, but she turned a deaf ear to them, and talked of the opera. He wished, he said, to confer with her on a subject very different to the opera, and would wait for an opportunity that would be

be more pleasing to her. When he was gone, we ordered the coach, and took an airing into Hyde Park, where Lord Palmerston joined us, and hoped he should be admitted to see us, if he called the next morning. On our return home, we found Lord Melbourne.

Among the rest of Mrs. Baddeley's visitants, Lord Lyttelton called, with a gentleman, to pay a morning visit, whom he introduced as a Mr. Johnson. He made a thousand apologies for neglecting so long to pay his respects to us, and begged permission to wait on us that evening to the opera; having in the course of conversation said, we were going

going there. We thanked his Lordship, but told him we were engaged with Lord Pigot and his two daughters. He said, he was rather unfortunate in the disappointment, but would take no denial for the next opera, when we agreed to go with him. He and his friend then left us, but they were not gone two hours before a servant brought the following letter.

“ Dear Mrs. Baddeley,

“ Pardon me for my presumption in addressing you by line, to request the favour of being permitted to do myself the honour to call, and communicate something of great consequence.

" sequence. Your compliance will be
" esteemed an inexpressible satisfaction
" to,

" Dear Madam,

" Your most obedient,

" Humble servant,

George Johnson."

Brook-street, Grosvenor-square,

Grosvenor-square,

Saturday; three o'clock.

Mrs. Baddeley returned the following
answer:

" Sir,

" I received your favour. My
engagements at present put it out of
my power to receive your communi-

" cation in person. If you will com-
mit it to paper, you may rely on an
answer, should such communication
require it.

" I am, Sir,

" Your humble servant,

" Sophia Baddeley."

Saturday ; four o'clock.

Mrs. Baddeley's curiosity was now awake again ; she could not conceive what Mr. Johnson had to say : I told her, my opinion was, to profess himself among the list of her admirers. " That can't be," says she, " for he is very handsome, and I am certain can not be without his favourite ; however, don't be uneasy, Steele, I

" neither

" neither care for him nor what he has
" to communicate; but, must own, I
" think, him preferable in person to
" Mr. Dillon, who is so much talked
" of."

Being dressed for the opera, Lord Pigot called on us, with two young ladies, whom he introduced as his children. It was Madame Heinel's benefit, and a crowded house it was. Though these two young ladies were natural children, his affection and attention to them, were not the less. Indeed, those who knew his Lordship, will join with me in saying, that he was not only an affectionate and indulgent parent, but a noble and generous friend, and a libe-

real benefactor to the distressed. After Lord Pigot was gone, and whilst we waited in the room for our carriage, Lord Lyttelton addressed us ; told Mrs. Baddeley, that she had captivated his friend, who was like a mad-man since he saw her ; and, that indeed, he did not wonder at it ; when not only he, but all the world were so much enamoured with her lovely person. He declared his own love and regard in very passionate terms, which I have the pleasure to say, she did not notice ; but said, her heart was engaged, and begged he would desist from such conversation.

On our reaching home, we found Mr. Johnson had called, and left word, he

he could not write what he wished to say, and would do himself the honour to call again the next morning at twelve; and the servants had orders, when he did call, to say we were not at home. On receiving this message the next day, he left word he would wait on us again the following day at twelve. He was no sooner gone, than Lord Melbourne came, and on being told the particulars of Lord Lyttelton and his friend, said, he begged neither of them might be any more admitted; nay, he made a point of it, and seemed rather hurt at their visit. Mrs. Baddeley promising never to see either of them again, but in public, the subject dropped. His Lordship told us, that he had met with Mr.

Hanger last night at Almaek's, where he won two thousand pounds, which he supposed would be of service to him, if he did not lose it again before he left the table. Lord Melbourne said, he was going to Chelsea to meet his Lady, who had taken an airing that way, and on his return would bring Mrs. Baddeley some flowers.

Mrs. Baddeley reminded me, that as Mr. Gaby was now in cash, it would be no bad time to get paid for my horse, and some money he owed me. I, thinking the same, wrote to him, and demanded payment, but to no purpose ; his answer was a verbal one, and importuned, that I might call on him if I pleased,

pleased, and he would talk to me ; but this I did not chuse to do : therefore, it rested as it is, unpaid to this day. The old Lord Harrington now called to see Mrs. Baddeley : she saw him, but not meeting such a reception as he liked, he soon took his leave, saying, he would wait on her at some other time. Lord Melbourne returned in the evening, and whilst he was with us, Mr. Hanger knocked at the door, and said, he called in consequence of my letter. I saw him, and told him, I hoped he was come to pay me. "No," says he, "I never pay a bill on Sundays." "Then, what brought you here?" retorted I. "To see Mrs. Baddeley," says he. "That you will not," returned I, "depend

“ pend upon it; so it is of no purpose
“ to stay.” “ He must see her,” he
said, and we had much altercation on
the subject; but I sent him off with-
out, though he was much offended.
Telling Mrs. Baddeley, in the presence of
Lord Melbourne, what passed, and what
I had done, his Lordship said, “ I acted
“ right, and he was much obliged to
“ me.” During this relation, I was
called down to Lord Palmerston, who
said, he was come to spend an hour
with us, if we were disengaged; but,
telling his Lordship we had company,
he went away, saying, he would call
to-morrow. On my return, Lord Mel-
bourne said, “ I presume you have
“ enough to do all day, to get rid of
“ your

" your visitors. Sit down, I have
" a complaint against you.—Come
" trim your accuser. Mrs. Baddeley
" says, Mrs. Steele, you are too good to
" her;—Is that true?" "I believe
" it is," said I. "Then" returns Lord
Melbourne "I shall not forget your kind-
ness at some future day." I told his
Lordship that I did not understand him;
that I was happy in doing every thing
in my power, to add to Mrs. Baddeley's
happiness, and that her attention and
respect to me deserved it. This drew
from him many civil expressions and
various promises, which, like the fashi-
onable world, he was pleased to forget.
But he was liberal to Mrs. Baddeley, to
an extreme, which encouraged her ex-
travagance,

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travagance, and led her even to run in debt, when she had not money to pay. Tradesmen were constantly bringing things to tempt her, saying, she might pay for them at her leisure, for they were in no want of money; making a point as I have already observed, to charge an exorbitant price for the little credit they give, and when the goods are purchased, are very importunate for their money. This led her often in debt; that embarrassed her, for she could not bear to be asked for money when she had it not to pay. She was ever buying of diamonds, though she could not wear them. When I was at home, I, in some measure, checked this, by my advice; but I seldom was from home, that

that she did not lay out a good deal of money in my absence. At one time (though I had only been absent two hours) she had bought as many things on credit, as came to eleven hundred and sixty nine pounds, part of this was point lace, to the amount of two hundred pounds, silver flowers and trimmings to the value of one hundred pounds; a diamond necklace, valued at six hundred pounds; besides silks and other things. On my return she told me what she had done; and I blamed her much, as this debt was for things she did not want. I represented to her that no man's fortune could support such extravagance, and the consequence I feared would be one day fatal to her.

She

She said his Lordship should pay it : but I begged her to consider that if she went on at this rate, it would at last tire him. She then said she would never act so again ; that she was sensible she was wrong, and blamed me for going out and leaving her, saying, that when she was alone, they some way or other always brought things to her, and ever perswaded her to purchase them. Whether or not she was inclined, I did not enquire into ; however, I took the necklace back to the jeweller ; but could not make him take it again ; he said he had sold it at a fair price, and would have nothing more to do with it, and expected to be paid agreeable to the note she had given him, which note was payable
in

in two months. Had she acquainted me with this particular, I should not have taken the necklace back, as I certainly knew the note would be paid away, which the jeweller told me was the case; of course I said little more to him on the subject, but returned home with the necklace, as I took it.

The reader will judge from this how easily Mrs. Baddeley might have been led into steps, that must have brought on her ruin very fast, had she not with her, a friend like myself, that guarded her against it. This one day's folly might have completed it, had not his Lordship's generosity extricated her from it. Had I given way to this extravag-

gant conduct, she would soon have been many thousand pounds in debt.

Lord Palmerston called this day and invited us to dinner, and would have no denial; we, of course, went and a very splendid entertainment we had. His Lordship was a man of Mrs. Baddeley's choice, but that reserv'd mode of conduct, she ever attended to in his company, commanded from him the respect he always shewed her.

On our return home, we learned that Lord Melbourne, and several persons had called, and among the rest Mr. Johnston twice. Mr. Caswel came and invited us to dinner. He could not smother

smother a wish to renew his old acquaintance; said he was more in love with Mrs. Baddeley than ever, and a great deal to the like effect; but to no purpose. However, he prevailed on us to accept his invitation, and we promised to attend him. He was scarce gone, before Mr. R. Conway came in, in order to present us with tickets for a masked ball, at the Pantheon, which we accepted.

Mr. Giordini, was now come to teach Mrs. Baddeley an Italian song; and whilst he was with her, came Mr. Thomas Storer, brother to Mr. Anthony Storer, accompanied by Lord Winchelsea, whom he introduced as just re-

turned from his travels. As soon as they left us, this being opera day, I got Mrs. Baddeley to write a note to Lord Lyttelton, to request he would excuse her going to the Opera-house that evening, as she was far from well. This kept peace with Lord Melbourne, without affronting Lord Lyttelton, who had always behaved to us, with the greatest respect and politeness.

Having thus released ourselves from an engagement, that would have answered no good purpose, we devoted the evening to the entertainment of a few theatrical friends, whom we invited to supper. Mrs. Baddeley did not keep much company of this sort; she would occasionally

occasionally pay and receive a visit from those she respected; and as she always made her friends welcome, gave them the best wine she could get, and was ready to be of use to them upon all occasions, they were happy in her company.

Having thought proper to mention a variety of Mrs. Baddeley's extravagancies; it is but justice that I should say a word or two of her economy. In house-keeping, she was far from expensive. Though we had all sorts of French and Spanish wines, to entertain our noble friends with, when they did us the honour to dine with us, and our table was set out with elegance; yet when we

dined alone, a single joint served us for dinner, and nothing was drank but small beer. As lived our servants, so did we. Dinner was ready regularly at three, and if we were not at home at that hour, the cloth was removed, and the joint served up below. For the many years we lived together, we never opened a bottle of wine for ourselves, nor had we any strong beer. I made it a rule to settle and discharge all bills for house-keeping, every Monday morning, together with the coachman's bills for hay, corn, &c. which I always looked into and booked. I never paid a shilling on Mrs. Baddeley's account, without taking a receipt, and obliged her to sit down with me once a fortnight to examine

mine

mine the accounts. I had frequently trouble to perswade her to this ; but I would not let her rest till she did it, on two accounts, one for my own satisfaction, and another for the good it did her ; as a reflection on some extravagances put her in mind of others, which she would not have thought of, but on this account. Whenever I conceived money to be ill laid out, I marked it with my pen, and she used to call this examination of accounts her *lesson*. At these times an enormous sum, idly laid out by her, would strike her with it's absurdity ; and she would say, “ I will “ not be so extravagant in future ; I “ will attend to you, my dear Steele, “ and do as you advise me.” But this

was

was only momentary ; however, I often took the liberty to check her orders, when I thought them wrong, or the consequence would have been dreadful. But to return to my story.

Part of our company this evening were two female performers ; their names are immaterial : and Mrs. Baddeley's good-nature, would not suffer these ladies to go away, without giving them something for *keep-sakes*, as she called it, as a proof of her good wishes. These keep-sakes, were gold trinkets of some value and lace, but which she thought no more of, than if they had been copper.

The

The next day our house was crowded with visitors, but we were denied to all.

We went this morning to Mr. King's the silk mercer, to purchase some mode, and the counter was immediately spread, with the newest silks. Lady such-a-one has had a gown of this, and Lady this and the other, a gown of that, and so on. Mrs. Baddeley was soon tempted and purchased a winter silk, so rich, that she paid fifty shillings a yard, for twenty yards, and another at twenty-eight shillings a yard; so that with these two gowns, some mode and some linings, she made shift to get rid of a hundred pounds. Mr. King told her, that these silks, were all the ton; and after this,

one

one might easier have stopped a torrent, than prevented her from the purchase.

On our return, she spread them in her chamber, for Lord Melbourne to see them when he next came. His Lordship seeing them, said they were beautiful, but not so handsome as they ought to be, considering who was to be the wearer ; and being told the price, gave me one hundred pounds to pay for them, saying, "Why did not she buy more silks, whilst she was about it ? King has done well to-day, for my Betsy has been there and bought silks to a great amount, in order to hang her rooms ; and when they are completed, they will be very

“ very elegant.” And, so indeed they ought, for his Lordship declared to me, upon his honour, that when the house, in Piccadilly, which he was building, was finished, and the furniture in it complete, so as to sit down in it to dinner, from a just calculation, it would cost him one hundred thousand pounds.

“ An astonishing sum !” exclaimed I.
“ It is a much greater sum,” continued his Lordship, “ than I intended, when I first began; for Mr. Chamber’s the surveyor’s estimate of the house and offices complete, did not exceed thirty thousand pounds; but, after they had gone on some way, and had made by his orders, some few alterations, it came to twenty thou-

“ sand

“ I said more. So that the buildings of
“ that house came to fifty thousand
“ pounds, besides the sixteen thousand
“ pounds paid for the old house and
“ ground.”

· My readers will naturally conceive that Lord Melbourne must have had an immense fortune, and so he had. He was the son and heir of Sir Matthew Lamb, who amassed great riches by lending out his money to the needy; and the public is too well acquainted with the character of Sir Matthew, for me to say anything on that head. Had Lord Melbourne been as good a calculator as his father, and not squandered his money as he did, he would have been a much richer

richer man than he now is. But it is an old saying, "Money got over the "devil's back is spent under his belly." His Lordship told me, that he gave a painter two thousand pounds, to paint only one cieling at his seat at Brocket-Hall. So that supposing, from his Lordship's taste, that every thing else is in proportion, we may not be surprized at what he bestowed on Mrs. Baddeley.

After Lord Melbourne had given me the one hundred pounds, as mentioned, to pay Mr. King, he made many enquiries respecting Lord Lyttelton, said, he was pleased to hear we had put off our engagement with him; and that he went to the Opera-house that evening,

purposely, to find out whether we had kept our word with him. I told his Lordship that Mrs. Baddeley wrote, and put off the engagement, on the plea of indisposition. Leaving his Lordship with Mrs. Baddeley, I went down stairs; and found an old gentleman seated in the parlour, to whom I made my obedience, and sitting down, begged to know his commands. He said, it was with a lady named Mrs. Steele; and, on telling him my name was Steele, he said, "Madam, before I begin, I must beg your promise of a candid and indulgent hearing." I told him, "As a gentleman, which he appeared to be, I presumed he would say nothing to give offence, and if so, and he would tell

" tell me his name and place of abode,
" I would readily attend to what he had
" to say; but it depended wholly on the
" matter he had to communicate, whe-
" ther I should hear him out or not."

He replied, " Madam, my name is
" George Vaughan, I live in Marlbo-
" rough-street, and have done so many
" years, next to Doctor Cooper's; and to
" oblige a gentleman of title and for-
" tune, I wait on you to request the
" honour of his being permitted to wait
" on you to drink tea. If you will give
" him leave, I will acquaint you with
" his name." To this I immediately
said, " You might well apologize, Sir,
" for your impertinence, and the imper-
" tinance of your friend who sent you;

S 2 " and

" and I beg the honour, as you are
" pleased to call it, that you will leave
" my house immediately, or I shall call
" my servant to shew you the way out :
" and pray tell the person, whoever he
" is that sent you, that no part of my
" conduct in life was, or is such, as
" could give him reason to suppose his
" visits would be accepted by me."—

He begged pardon several times, and as I took hold of the bell, he begged my permission to go. I told him, he knew the door, and off he went. On enquiring how he came into the house, I was told that he said, he was a relation of mine from the country, and begged to see me: and, on the servant's saying, I was engaged with company up-stairs,

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he replied, "Don't disturb Mrs. Steele; " if you will give me leave, I will wait "her comming down." I told my servant he was no relation or acquaintance of mine, and he might be a thief for any thing he knew to the contrary. Giving him orders to be more careful in future, he promised it, and there the matter ended.

During the time this Mr. George Vaughan was here, Mr. Johnson called and said, if Mrs. Baddeley did not intend to see him, she might be polite enough to leave a message to that effect. As he had heard she was indisposed the night before, he presumed she was now at home. The servant said, she was,

but too ill to be seen by any one. He then asked if he could not see Mrs. Steele. She, says the man, is at present engaged or I suppose you might. "Please then," says Mr. Johnson, "to give my compliments to her, and tell her I will call again in two hours, and will not take up ten minutes of her time." Telling my servant, that if he called again I would see him, for I thought it prudent to put a stop to his calling, when he came the second time he was admitted. I saw him. He said, as he could not have the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Baddeley, he took the liberty to request I would be kind enough to hear what he had so long wished to inform her of, and then said

a great

a great deal about his love and affection for her. I stopped him short, begged he would not say a word more upon the subject, for that his visits could not be received, and he would lay Mrs. Baddeley under great obligations, as well as myself, if he would not call at my house any more. To this he was deaf: I told him I had company, which I had left to wait on him, and that I must beg to be excused staying any longer from them. I thus got rid of him, but not without great reluctance on his part.

Lord Melbourne had sent down for me twice, and it was great entertainment, when I gave him an account of my visitors, particularly the old man below.

below. He laughed very heartily, and wished I had made the footman kick the villain down the steps. "Had I seen him," says Mrs. Baddeley, "I should certainly have thrown something at his head, for affronting you, my dear Steele, as he did." Mrs. Baddeley still complained of a pain in her head, and Lord Melbourne requested I would send for Doctor Eliot the next morning to attend her. I did, but he was of little service to her.

Whilst Doctor Eliot was with her, I was called down to the Duke of An-caster, who was waiting below. He asked to see Mrs. Baddeley; but, I told his Grace, Doctor Eliot was with her, and

and she was too ill to see any one. He said many civil things, asked me a number of questions respecting her, and ended with declaring, that he had a most sincere esteem for her, and it would be her own fault if she was not a happy woman for life. I told his Grace, that it was out of her power to receive his visits, or those of any other Nobleman, in the way he had long wished ; that she was then provided, and I hoped for life ; that it was the wish of my heart, that she should pursue her profession only, wherein there was a greater prospect of happiness, than any fortune could make her, in the manner she received it, and his Grace proposed. I took the liberty then of saying, that I wondered men of fashion,

fashion, could not be contented with their wives, and be happy at home; that I thought he had an amiable one; and, that he ought to think so too.

"So," says he, "has Lord Melbourne, and yet you find he is not happy, as you call it, at home." "It is even so, my Lord," returns I, "but if I could have my will, one and all of you married gentlemen, should find your happiness in your own houses, or you should be made to suffer, in searching for it elsewhere." His Grace laughed, and said, he did not expect such a lecture from me. I told him, they were the sentiments of my heart; "Then," said he, "I wish you to alter them." "Not while I live, my Lord,

"Lord," returned I, "and I trust
"your Grace will find it out at last;
"that, if there is no happiness at home,
"there can be none abroad." "Then,"
says the Duke, "you would have one
"go home and look for it?" "In-
"deed I would," replied I. "Well,"
says he, "Mrs. Steele, I'll take your
"advice for once; but, remember, I
"shall call again soon, and beg you
"will present my kind compliments to
"Mrs. Baddeley." With this he left
me, and I was pleased he was gone. I
told Mrs. Baddeley what passed, and
that as it was unpleasant to me, to be
often in this disagreeable situation, I
wished she would put an end to it. She
laughed, and said, she was under a
thou-

thousand obligations to me. I told her I should be under a million to her, if she would do as I first proposed to her, and leave all the men to themselves.

" How is that possible ?" replied she, " I don't run after them, and why they should follow me as they do, I am at a loss to know. It is no wish of mine ; and, as to my connexion with Lord Melbourne, having broken with Mr. Garrick, and given up my singing at Ranelagh, I must preserve it, having now no other resource. I must, therefore, continue as I am with Lord Melbourne ; but, for the Duke of Ancaster, or any other man, except"—and here she stopped.

" Except who ?" retorts I.—" One,"

says

says she, "I must not name." "For
"God's sake," returned I, with some
warmth and vexation, "don't be fool-
ish. Who's fell in your way now?—
"Some other plague I fear!" I am
sorry to be again under the necessity of
speaking unkindly of her; but, I can-
not smother facts. Let her have what
stable connexions she would, she was
restless, unless she had, at the same time,
a favourite visitor of her own choice, to
whom she might, when she pleased, be-
stow her unbought favours. After some
conversation, I found out, that this new
favourite, was no other than Mr. Thomas
Storer, brother to Mr. Anthony Storer,
Secretary to the Duke of Dorset, when
Ambassador at Paris. This folly of

Mrs. Baddeley, for I can call it by no softer name, in the end, led her into very disagreeable situations, which the reader will in the course of this work be made acquainted with.

On this declaration of her's, I asked her if she was mad; and told her, if I saw any thing improper pass between them, I would not live with her another day. This was the only method I had of bringing her to herself, whenever she acted without some little consideration. Mr. Storer, however, being a man of gallantry and of the ton, took every opportunity of throwing himself in her way, and had perseverance enough to succeed with her. Finding he came too frequently

frequently to our house, I forbade his visits. She thought proper, notwithstanding, to see him occasionally. He came one evening with Lord Winchelsea, and staid supper; this was an engagement I could not put off, having other friends in company.

On his going away, I saw him put a piece of paper into Mrs. Baddeley's hand, and when he was gone, she said to me, "Here's a note from Storer, I
"have not seen it; will you be so good
"as to read it?" It was only to tell her, how much he was in love with her, and wished for an opportunity to express himself more fully. I put it into the fire, saying he should come here no

more, and gave orders to be denied, whenever he called. This gentleman therefore called and called to no purpose. At every public place, however, where there were hopes of seeing Mrs. Baddeley, he was sure to be there, and took all the pains in his power to gain her favour. He pressed much to be admitted at our house, but I told him it was impossible, as his visits would not be approved of, Mrs. Baddeley's situation putting it out of her power to receive any visitors, in the light he wished to be received; therefore, I should not suffer him to come to my house. This gave him offence; he thought himself treated with disrespect.—I told him I meant no such thing; that I liked to speak

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my mind freely, and should certainly act as I said; and that I had various reasons for so doing, which I did not think necessary to explain. "Well then," said he, "I suppose Mrs. Baddeley is so far her own mistress, that she can come to see me." "That's with herself," returned I, "if she thinks herself so very independent, and thinks proper to do it, she must abide by the consequence." This offended him more. Mrs. Baddeley, who stood by, made no reply, as she was certain, whenever she followed my advice, that she was right. He begged to be permitted to say a few words to her alone, and on my saying he should not, he replied, he would then try what he could

could do in defiance of me. This made Mr. Storer my enemy, and though he had no power to injure me, we never were on friendly terms. He was not however remiss in his pursuits. And one morning Mrs. Baddeley going out in her coach, to her milliner's alone, I not being well; meeting with Mr. Storer, she took this opportunity of going with him to his lodgings in Bruton-street; as she afterwards confessed to me. She was not much longer than I thought necessary, but did not want an excuse on her return. It was sometime afterwards, before I learned from her, that she was at Mr. Storer's lodgings, when, shewing myself very much displeased, she assured me nothing improper passed.

between

between them. I reasoned with her again, on her treachery to Lord Melbourne, and represented to her that Mr. Storer was a married man, and a very gay one; and that should any connexion with him get abroad, it might be attended with bad consequences to her, and to those who ought not to suffer by her imprudence. She declared she was innocent with respect to any such charge, acknowledged herself obliged to me for my advice, and promised she would not act in such a manner again.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

